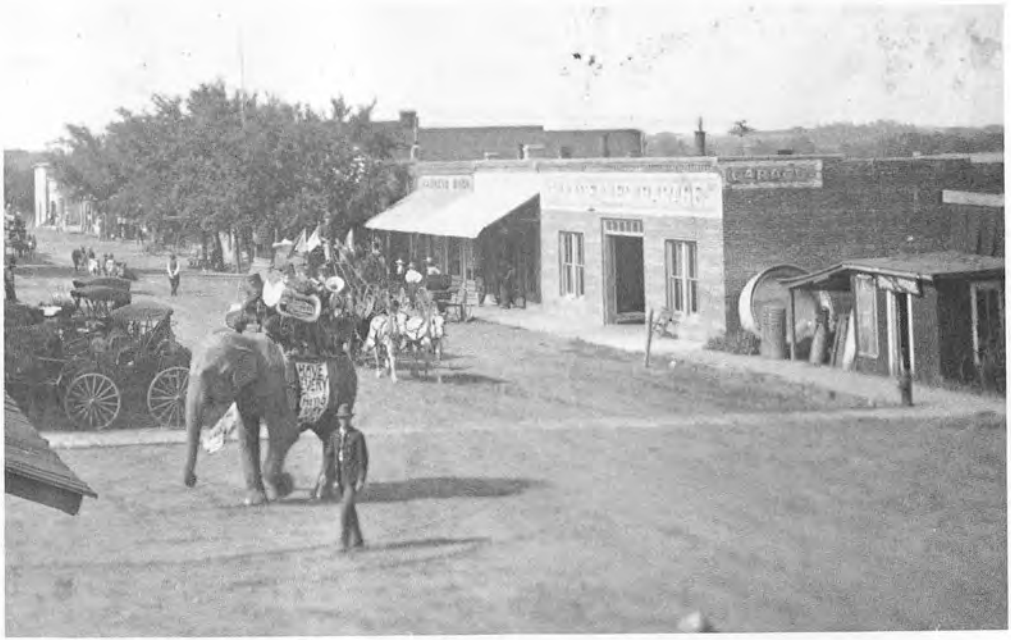
HISTORY OF TALMAGE

1882 - 1976

LUMBER

BR'G
CO.
BEER VAULT
BR'G
CO.
BEER VAULT



East Side of Main Street at Talmage, Nebr.

No. 6 Bartling Grain Co. Elevator. Talmage, Neb.

HISTORY OF TALMAGE

CONTAINING

Portraits and Biographical Sketches of some of our Prominent Pioneer Citizens.

The story of her past and present is told with pen and photographs by several committees.

compiled by
Edward F. Bottcher
of Talmage, Nebraska

Sponsored by the Bicentennial Committee
Mr and Mrs Arnold Kreimer
Mr and Mrs Edward Bottcher
Mr and Mrs Merlyn Osborn

PRICE $2.50

Preface

The history of this village is best told in the record of the lives of its Pioneers. In conformity with this idea, the biography of this village has been prepared. No more interesting or instructive matter could be presented to an intelligent public. In the history of this community and village will be found a record of many whose lives are worthy of the imitation of our generation today. It tells how some, commencing life in poverty, by industry and economy, have accumulated wealth. It tells how others, with limited advantages, have become learned men and women, with an influence extending through the length and breadth of this community. It tells that many, in the pride and strength of young manhood, left the plow and the anvil, the lawyer's office and the counting-room, left every trade and profession, in search of a freedom and a way of life that they, or their forefathers had never experienced. It tells how a village is born, why and where. Great care has been taken in the compilation of the history of this village and to insure correctness. If any one is missed in this history, it was not done intentionally.

The Discovery of the Nemaha Valley

In the middle 1800 hundreds, our pioneers started to move across the Missouri River looking for land to homestead. As they came upon the Nemaha Valley, they discovered large herds of buffalo grazing in grass, knee high. Some of them realized that there had to be something very valuable beneath that sod, so they decided this was what they were looking for.

They soon discovered, beneath this rich surface of sod, a lode of rich black soil that lays like an endless gold mine which is worth a King's ransom. Add to this an extensive deposit of water and the mind reels. These products should bring fantastic wealth to the valley as more of the valley fell under the plow.

The grain and food this valley began to produce and is still producing 100 years later exceeds all the wildest dreams of our pioneers, had this not been true there would not have been any history of Talmage to write about.

Talmage was fortunate in locating in one of the chosen spots in the valley near the mouth of the Spring Creek, Wilson Creek and South Branch.

Transportation and Communication

Prior to 1882, the only means of transportation and communication this community had was the Grant Post Office, located about three and three-fourths miles southwest of Talmage. Mr. Patrick owned the Post Office and was Postmaster and also operated a general merchandise store.

Our pioneers started to settle up and down the Nemaha Valley in the middle eighteen hundreds. By 1880, so many people had settled in the valley and so many acres had fallen under the plow that getting their crops to market was a problem. Then came the good news. In 1880, the Missouri-Pacific Railroad started to build a main line from Kansas City to Omaha. By the spring of 1881, they had reached a point between Auburn and Brock when farmers in this vicinity learned that they planned to build a depot some distance north of the present site. A group of citizens interviewed the railroad officials as to having the depot built where it is at present, so the town could be built on a hill, the officials consented.

Clark Puffer, owner of the townsite, donated the land to the railroad, which they needed. Everyone was eager to begin operation at once. The townsite was planted to corn and Mr. Puffer's neighbors volunteered to assist in cutting the corn as they did not wish to delay work in platting the town. What had been a quiet farm community became a bustle of activity. Evidence of the corn stalks are still found under the first houses.

A meeting was held for the puspose of selecting a name for the new town. Many were anxious to call it Pufferville but Mr. Puffer demurred and suggested the name of Talmage, after the superintendent of this division of the railroad. Mr. Talmage consented to having the town named in his honor. By 1882, the town was platted and many lots had been sold. James Cummins, who owned the land southeast of the townsite, also gave the railroads the lots which they needed and platted 10 blocks, thus creating Cummins Addition.

Wathans Addition is on the south, Steeles Addition on the north, Nortons Addition on the west and Engfers Addition on the northwest. This comprises the town site and corporation limits. For 35 to 40 years, the Missouri Pacific Railroad, through Talmage, provided daily trains to and from Omaha, Lincoln and Crete.

Twice daily, mail, express and passenger service besides numerous freight trains were available to Talmage citizens.

The History of the Men Who Platted the
Village of Talmage
and their contributions

NORTON ADDITION

Judge W. H. Norton moved from Unadilla to Talmage when Talmage was started in 1882. He purchased a tract of land on the west edge of town and platted four acres creating the Norton Addition. Before coming to Unadilla and Talmage, Mr. Norton was constable and deputy sheriff in his home county in Illinois. Whatever others may have done, Judge Norton did his share toward building up Talmage. He was among the first on the ground in 1882 and for fifteen years, he erected more buildings than any other man as a carpenter and contractor. He saw the town develop from a cornfield into a thriving trade center. He built the family home in 1893, now owned and accupied by Gladys Badberg.

The Norton family lived in this home until 19 . Judge Norton served as Justice of the Peace for 20 years and was always considered as being fair and honest in his decisions.

CUMMINS ADDITION

The name of James Cummins, was familiar among the extensive operators in livestock in the county, since his headquarters was in the Village of Talmage. He was on the spot at the laying out of the village of Talmage which became the nucleus of his future operations and with whose interest he was continuously identified. Here and at his Burr Station, he fed and fattened large numbers of cattle each year, having his market mostly at Talmage. He also had been engaged in freighting from Nebraska City to Fort Carson, Smith, Montana and also operated a stock ranch in Montana. In 1882, the Missouri Pacific Railroad was built and Talmage was plotted.

Mr. Cummins plotted twenty acres, giving the railroad company 1/2 of the lots and the rest comprising sixty-four lots which is now known as Cummins Addition. Mr. Cummins took a great interest in the affairs of Talmage. He served on the Village Board and was always willing to serve on any committee.

After giving 10 acres to the railroad and platting sixty four lots, he still owned 140 acres to carry on his livestock business. At one time, he was associated with Mr. Gregory. The shipping of livestock discontinued when trucks became popular as a method of selling livestock. The last carload of livestock shipped by railroad out of Talmage was shipped by Carrol Osborn, in the fall of 1928. (A carload of hogs.)

PUFFER ADDITION

Clark Puffer was a very prominent farmer and cattle feeder. Being the owner of the townsite, he played a very important part in plotting the Village of Talmage. He plotted twenty acres giving 1/2 to the railroad company, the rest of the lots he gave for the Village proper and residential area. Mr. Puffer was so respected by the people of the community that they wanted to name the town Pufferville in his honor. This he declined.

Mr. Puffer was also Justice of the Peace of South McWilliams Precinct for several years. One of the first ordinances Mr. Puffer asked the City Board to act on was that all property owners must provide a sidewalk along their property. It could be constructed of boards, brick or cement, and the town must build the crossings of brick or cement. This was approved by the Board. Some of the brick walks are still being used. He sponsored the first beautification project, he was assisted by Riley Edwards, and they set out many trees which line the streets and which has always made the town attractive.

STEELES ADDITION

John R. Steele was born in 1884 in Four Mile Precinct. He sold his land in the winter of 1882. He bought a 40 acre tract of land on the north side of the city proper in the spring of 1882. He added two rows of blocks to the city, thus creating the Steele Addition.

By the fall of 1882, John Steele had identified himself with almost every enterprise that was calculated. He was the first postmaster of Talmage and was the treasurer of the Building and Loan Association of Talmage. He was connected with five Fire and Life Insurance Companies and was the Director of Public Schools.

He wrote many articles for the Prohibition Newspaper and was nominated for the State Legislature from this county on the Prohibition ticket. He helped in the erection of some of the first buildings in Talmage, and with much pride and pleasure, watched the rapid progress being made in the extension and welfare of Talmage.

WATHANS ADDITION

Wathans Addition was plotted in the southern part of town, making up the present town site and corporation limits.

History of some of the Early Businessmen

LEMAN HORRUM AND L. T. SPICKNALL

In the summer of 1869, Leman left Indiana and secured a tract of land in LaFayette Precinct in Nemaha County, just south of Talmage in the spring of 1870. Leman Horrum was a man of great vision and became very interested in the birth of this new village. He realized that many needs must be met, hardware and farm implements being one. In the spring of 1882, he opened a hardware and implement store in Talmage.

In the spring of 1883, Leonard T. Spicknall came to Talmage from Illinois and with him all the modern equipment and appliances for making bricks. Mr. Spicknall and Mr. Horrum entered into a partnership and opened a new industry in Talmage, that of brick making. The kiln was located northeast of Talmage. The demand for this article was so great that in less than a year, the factory had the capacity of over 600,000 bricks per year and the industry was able to enjoy an enviable reputation and extensive patronage throughout the entire surrounding district, supplying the brick for all the buildings since erected in town and surrounding neighborhoods.

By 1886, Mr. Horrum's hardware business became so demanding of his time, he disposed of his interest in the brick industry to his partner and invested his capitol in his hardware business. There was an increasing demand for more and better means of transportation and farm implements. By now, Mr. Horrum was not only a leading hardware merchant of Talmage, but of Otoe and Nemaha County. He carried

a full stock of merchandise pertaining to his line of trade, including full line of farm implements, wagons, buggies and other road vehicles. Leman was a respected and prominent citizen, contributing very liberally to the promoting of a better Talmage.

By 1893, the business needed expanding, so the partnership of Horrum and Ritter was formed, but it was destined to last but a short time as Mr. Horrum passed away in 1903 and William J. Ritter became the sole proprietor.

HENRY UHL

Henry Uhl was born in Lee County, Iowa, in 1884, he located in Talmage. A Planing Mill and Carpentry Shop was erected. Mr. Uhl was a cabinet maker as well as a carpenter. His Planing Mill and Car-

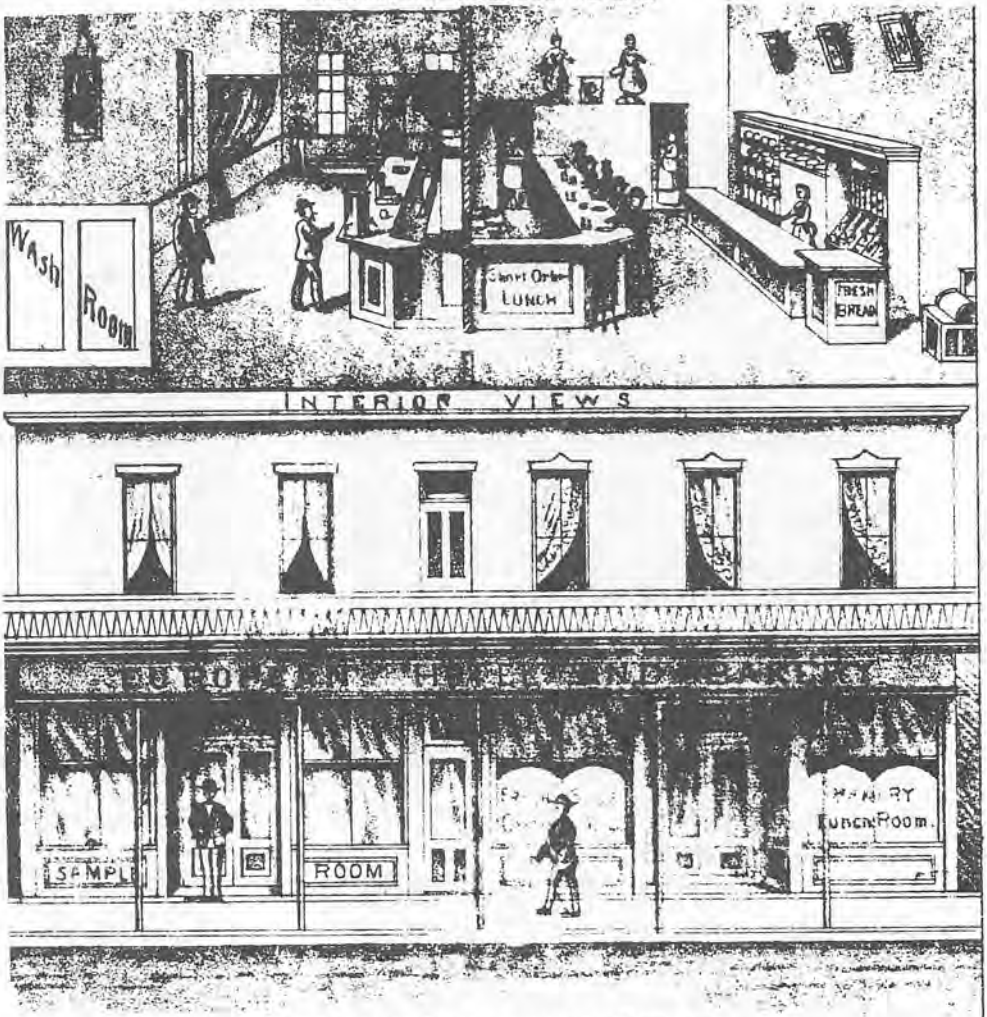
UHL'S FURNITURE STORE AND WORK SHOP.

pentry Shop was of great assistance to those who were building. When he retired as a carpenter and cabinet maker, he devoted his time to the furniture store and undertaking establishment. Mr. Chris Sisson, owning a big bay team of horses, drove the hearse for Mr. Uhl until he purchased a Ford auto hearse, the first one used in Talmage. In 1928, Mr. Uhl sold out to W. P. Hermann of Osceola, who operated here about three years then sold to E. F. Tonsing of Syracuse and George

Allgaier of Talmage, who later sold his interest in the business to Calvin Pearson in 1936 and the firm, Tonsing & Pearson came into being.

Mr. Pearson opened an electric applicance store in connection with the mortuary. He held an auction in 1953 and moved to Shenandoah. Mr. Tonsing moved his mortuary to Syracuse. In 1953, Roy Casey & Sons of Johnson added another undertaking establishment in Talmage. In 1971, Mr. Witzenburg purchased an interest in the mortuary. In 1973, the mortuary was completely remodeled. Today, Talmage has one of the finest undertaking establishments.

HERMAN WACHENDORF



HERMAN WACHENDORF. PROPR.
EUROPEAN HOTEL & BAKERY, TALMAGE, NEB.

This man was born Feb. 10, 1854 in Hanover, Germany. In March of 1875, he and his parents first set foot upon American soil. In the winter of 1879, Herman and his wife came to this state and located in Belmont Precinct of Otoe County where he established a little country store. He soon developed into a successful businessman. In the spring of 1882, he became interested in the newborn village of Talmage. With the railroad coming, he saw a great need for a restaurant and hotel. Early in the spring of 1882, he sold his little country store and moved to Talmage where he put up a building, within which he established the first permanent restaurant, bakery, saloon and 18 bedrooms, which he conducted in a highly successful manner. This being the beginning of his new business career, his success was a little beyond the ordinary, his good sense in a large measure, supplying the lack of experience. He soon was recognized as one of the most successful businessmen in Otoe County.

LODGING

Hotels played an important part in the history of our town. In those days, the traveling men had to come into town on the train and make their headquarters at the hotel. The traveling men also demanded a display room in the hotel so merchants could come and look over the goods.

Clifton Hotel

The Clifton Hotel was built in 1898. It was constructed of brick and had 26 rooms. It had a fine display room, dining room and lounge. It operated for 40 years. In that time, the owner and operators were the Edwards, Meads, Garys, Arnolds, Meents, Vioxs and Allens. Mr. and Mrs. Walter Shields were the last operators. They took over in 1926 and remained in business until 1937. Mr. Shields passed away in 1936 and his widow disposed of it in 1937. Ed. G. Van Winkle bought the building and with the materials from the torn down building, he built two attractive cottages.

Boarding House

In 1882, Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Mothersead and family moved here. They erected a hotel on the west side of Main Street so laborers could be given lodging and board. This was always considered a boarding house instead of a hotel.

History of the Flour Mills
(Herman H. Tangeman)

The firm of Tangeman and Sons operated the well remembered flour mill on the Nemaha River, about 6 miles northwest of Talmage. It was one of the most successful water-powered mills on the Nemaha River. It was destroyed by fire in 1883. In 1884, it was rebuilt. It was fitted with all the modern machinery, including five double-run of rollers and operated by the patent process. Two new 60-power engines, driven by water, transported from the wheel to the mill by a cable in an even, unobstructed stream over a grooved wheel, nine feet in diameter. And in a year's time, it put out over 15,000 barrels of flour besides meal and other commodities.

The firm of Tangeman and Sons was able to compete with the best manufacturers of flour in Southeast Nebraska and supplied a considerable foreign demand, their patronage extended throughout this and adjoining states.

In 1905, Mr. Tangeman installed an electric light plant at the mill, built a power line to Talmage. Thus, the citizens of Talmage were provided with electric lights and the first town with less than 1000 population in southeast Nebraska had electric light. J. J. Paben was one of the last men to operate the mill. The operation of the mill came to an end when the Nemaha drainage district changed the course of the river and thus eliminated its source of power.

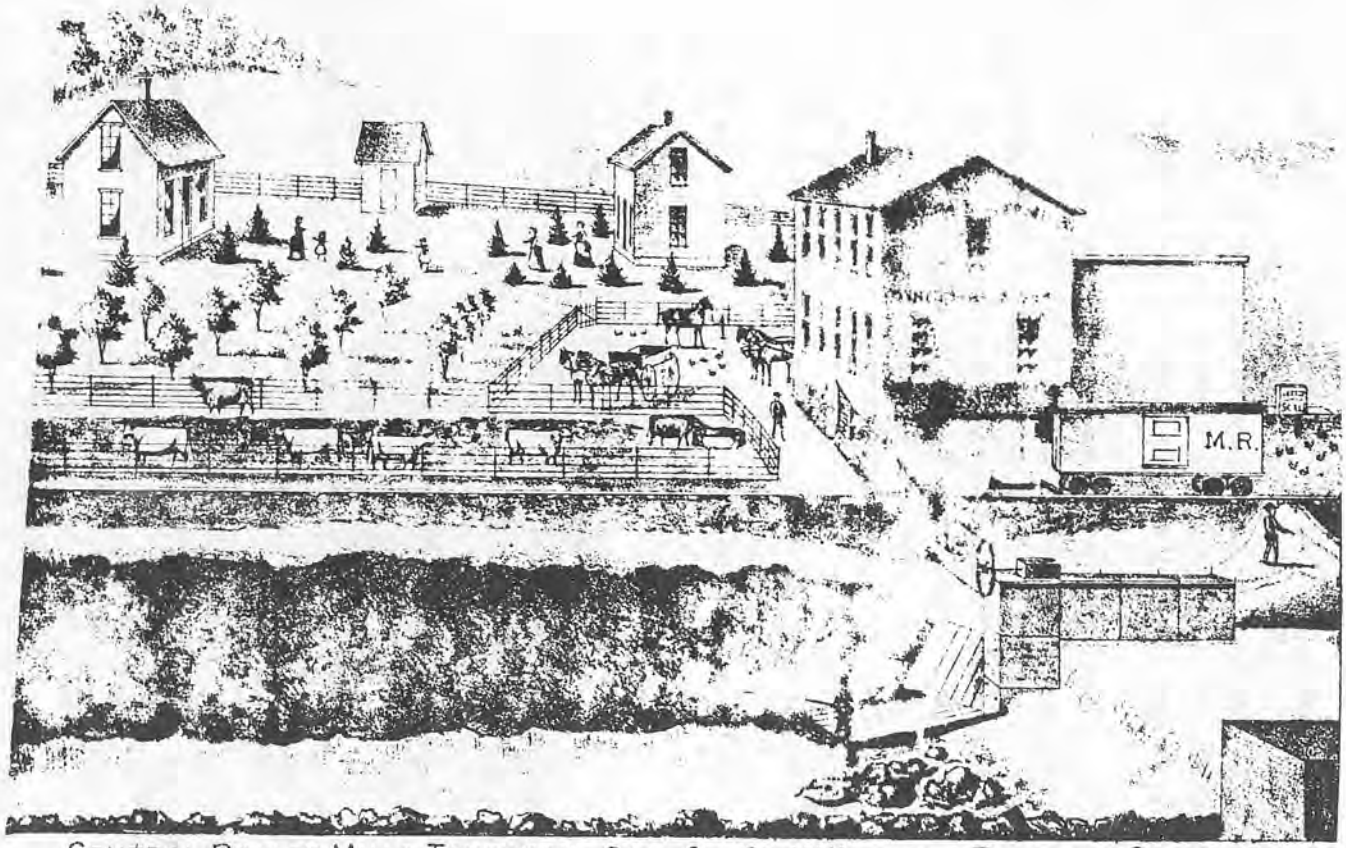
Thompson Flour Mill

The Joseph Thompson family contributed much to the early history of our town. Mr. Thompson and Sons built a mill on the Nemaha, about two miles northwest of town.

Thompson's Mill was a very popular place for many years. They also had a stone quarry nearby and when they were not busy at the mill, they were excavating rocks. The mill was never able to show a financial profit and went out of business about 1912.

Denton Mill & Elevator

The first elevator in town was in the north part of town and was



CENTRAL ROLLER MILLS, TANGEMAN & SONS, S. 2 Mt. WILLIAMS PRECINCT, OTOE CO. NEB.

owned and operated by J. H. Mohrman. After several years, it was sold to the Cargills of Brock, George Cargill was the manager.

In 1912, it was sold to Denton Bros. (Winfield and Orville of Leavenworth, Kans.) They also purchased several lots across the street from the elevator to build their home. Robert Denton came in 1912 to manage the affairs and passed away suddenly in 1914. Louis Denton and family moved here immediately from Kansas and took charge.

In 1918, he added equipment for a mill. They milled flour, corn meal and pancake flour, under the trade name "Big D". The pancake flour soon became in great demand and made the mill well known. In 1944, the elevator and mill burned to the ground. It was a distinct loss to the community and ended the flour business in this area.

J. H. Damme

J. H. Damme came to Talmage in the year 1882 to start a lumber yard for the Chicago Lumber Company. Mr. Damme was determined to enter into his own business. He erected a store and put in a stock of goods.

In 1887, his store burned to the ground. He rebuilt it with a fine brick building on Main Street, 22 x 80 feet, and carried a full and varied stock of general merchandise. In 1884, Mr. Damme left the lumber yard and gave his entire attention to mercantile pursuits. Mr. Damme continued in business until 1936 when his son, Theodore, became the owner. Theodore sold out in 1955 to Floyd Bohlken who discontinued the business in 1956.

Mr. Damme had a great business ability. He soon became the largest property owner in town. He was very civic-minded. He was always supporting any movement that would make Talmage a better town. He was for building their own light plant, water system, paving and the new school.

William J. Ritter

The partnership of Horrum and Ritter ended in the death of Mr. Horrum in 1903. Mr. Ritter became sole proprietor of the hardware business. He added the International line of farm machinery and soon became one of the outstanding dealers and was so recognized by the company.

Mr. Ritter was a firm believer in advertising, as each week a large advertisement appeared in the Talmage Tribune. He continued in business until 1947, serving the public for 54 years.

Mr. Ritter always took an active part in civic activities concerning the village. He always supported any move for the betterment of the town and community. He was a member of the fire department for 46 years. He never failed to attend the annual meetings and gave his support for any improvements. In 1947, Mr. Ritter retired, selling his business to his grandson, Edward Flake, Jr.

Clark Puffer Family

Mr. & Mrs. Clark Puffer and sons, Jesse C., Carrol and Ira, and daughter, Annie Laurie, migrated from Wisconsin to Nebraska in the early 1860's and located first in Lincoln, Nebraska. It was here that Mr. Puffer assisted in building the first state capitol.

In a few years, they moved to Otoe County where he purchased some farm land and made their home two miles west of Talmage. Here he served as Justice of the Peace and was very active in the affairs of the community.

When they learned that the Missouri Pacific was building a railroad through this section, he was glad to donate the land for a town site. The land was planted to corn and his neighbors and friends were glad to assist in clearing the land of the cornfields.

A few years after the town was started, Mr. & Mrs. Puffer moved to Riverside, California.

Jessie Puffer married Hattie Kennedy, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. James Kennedy, who lived south of Talmage. They made their home on a farm two miles west of Talmage. They
and Ida. Blanch married Arnold Frerichs, son of Mr. & Mrs. Theodore Frerichs and moved to Brush, Colorado where he was in the banking business. A short time later, Mr. & Mrs. Puffer and Ida moved to Riverside, California, to make their home.

Carrol Puffer married Ida Harris, daughter of the Rev. and Mrs. James Harris, who lived south of town. A short time later, Mr. & Mrs. Puffer moved to Redlands, California. They had no children.

Ira Puffer was a mail clerk on the Missouri Pacific and on one of his runs west he became ill in Montana and before he could return home, he died. He is buried in Grant Cemetery near Talmage.

Miss Annie Laurie married Lyman Osborn and lived on a farm south west of Talmage. They were the parents of three sons, Fred, Lyman, and Carrol and only he grew to manhood and spent his life in this vicinity.

Fritz Bosking - Tailor

Born in a small village in Germany on April 28, 1869, he moved to Bremen at the age of 14 to start as an apprentice, receiving $2.50 per week, plus board and room. After completing his apprenticeship, he practied his trade as a tailor in Germany until April 1901 when he,

his wife Marie and son Fritz, Jr. emigrated to the United States and joined relatives in Talmage, Nebraska.

He set up the first known tailor shop in Talmage that same year. From records still in possession of the family, they reveal measurements for suits and pants for numerous customers, including such familiar names as Dr. Jeffers, Brehm, Frerichs, Strangeman, Peters, Engfer, Wellsandt, Puffer, Woods, Cathcart, Ritter, Meyer, Fahrenholz, Hampel, Becker, Heinke, Allgaier, Kreimer, Tangeman, Dr. Ewh, Carney, Childs, Helm, Dr. Wilkie, Ives, Pastor Deushner, Dorman, Deutsch, Dr. Gritzka, Hanken, Tinimeyer, Schottler, Gordon, Butz, Busacker, Doermann, Hansen, Viox, Wathem, Wilkie, Holtgrewe, Damme, Yoder, Dr. Flaugher, Kohers, Rev. Stave, Spencer, Denton, Flake, Norton, Lessmann, Ingram, Messigades, Pastor Dickinger, Strome, Van Winkle, Conger, Ftitz, Van De Burg, Bruns, Carlin, Dr. Weeks, Meentz, Holthaus, Dr. Reese and many more.

Between 1901 and 1914, he had his own shop but part of that time was associated with P. J. McManus Clothing Store.

Starting in 1914, he operated the tailor shop in the Talmage Clothing Co., operated by Henry Allgaier. It was sold to a Chas. Gardner in 1921. The business was liquidated approximately 1922.

From 1922 thru June 1, 1924, he again operated his own tailor shop and then moved to Omaha.

Thus, it appears the only tailor to locate in Talmage was Fritz Bosking, covering the years from 1901 to 1924. Talmage was the birthplace of 5 Bosking children including Catherine, William, Henry, Herman and Roland. Three children graduated from Talmage High School.

EARLY DAY BUSINESSES

Livery Stable

A business that was very essential in those days was the livery stable the first of which was owned by Elmer Hall. In a short time, Frank and August Meyer, farmers from Osage, decided to go into the livery business and built their stable north of the present American Legion Club

Room. After a time, August returned to the farm and Frank continued to operate the stable. On August 22, 1894, immediately after the hay mow had been filled with hay, a fire broke out and destroyed the livery barn and every other building on the east side of main street to the south. When cars supplanted the horses, Mr. Meyer retired from the business and served as marshall for our village for several years.

Opera House

Not long after the town started, a very substantial improvement was the building of the Cash Opera House. It is a two story building erected by Jerud Cash, farmer who lived just west of town. The first story contained two business houses and the Opera House on the second floor is as large as both. It also had two offices on the east. For many years, everything of importance was held there, which included political rallies, stock companies which showed for one or two weeks, medicine shows, dances, banquets, wrestling matches, home talent plays and many other activities. In 1898, Mr. Cash sold the building to Herman Arends and it became known as the Arends Opera House. Miss Isabella Winton is the present owner. The postoffice is now located in the building.

Harness Shop

A business that has practically ceased to exist is the harness shop, which in those days was indispensable. Paul Hampel was one of the first, if not the first in the business and remained actively engaged in it as long as he lived. Henry Venter was here for a time, later moved to Lincoln. Ed J. Hramas purchased the Hampel shop in 1918 and remained for about 25 years.

Creamery Pond - Gritzka Lake

An early day merchant was August Engfer, who came to Talmage in 1888 and for a brief time had a blacksmith and wagon making shop. Later he farmed for a time, then decided to open a grocery and merchandise store, which he operated 18 years, retiring just a short time before his death.

It was also in 1888 that a group of businessmen, composed of Herman Mindermann, Louis Risser, A.C. and John Butz, Fred Sellhorn,

Henry Uhl and William and John Tangemann formed a company and built a creamery in the north part of town. The cream was purchased from the local farmers and butter was made. They also owned the Creamery Pond, which has been a part of Talmage almost from the beginning. In 1890, A. C. Butz became sole owner of the pond. These were days of ice boxes and all of the ice used by the merchants and citizens was put up on this pond and stored in the nearby ice house. In the summertime, ice was delivered to all parts of twon each morning. The pond was a popular place for skating in the winter time and boating in the summer. Mrs. Butz sold the pond to Frank Lessman and John Adolph acquired it from Mrs. Lessman. When mechanical refrigerators came into use, the pond was allowed to deteriorate.

Mr. Stanley was elected president of the Chamber of Commerce in January, 1956, and his project was to restore the Creamery pond and make it an attractive recreation spot and place to fish. Contributions were solicited which permitted them to dredge the pond with the assistance of many men who donated labor. A great deal of time and energy were expended before it again became a beauty spot. The banks have been rocked and it has become a favorite fishing place for people from a distance as well as those who live here. It has been named Grtizka Pond in honor of Dr. Gritzka whose piscatorial art is well known.

Drug Stores

The first drug store in Talmage was opened by Dr. J. W. Conger (our first doctor) and Mr. Henry Borg. These owners sold out to George Gilman in 1885.

The first telephone switchboard was installed in the rear of Mr. Gilman's store in 1887, and he and his clerks took care of the calls. There was no night or Sunday service.

Following Mr. Gilman's ownership were Dr. McKibbon assisted by his daughter, Blanch, H. J. Hirsch, B. R. Zastera, Vern McSwan, Carl Poling and D. W. Leeding. Other owners followed, but prescriptions were no longer sold after Mr. Leeding left Talmage.

A second drug store was opened by W. C. Reynolds, who also conducted a loan business. In 1897, he sold out to A. C. Butz. After Mr. Butz died, Mrs. Butz sold the business to I. B. Ross and George Webster. Mr. Ross lived but a short time and Mr. Webster carried on until he retired. Then, for the first time in Talmage history, there was only one drug store--the one then owned by Mr. Hirsch.

EARLY DAY BUSINESSES

Allgaier Store

This store was started by George Allgaier, Sr. early in the century. It was a leading mercantile house of this part of Otoe County. It was really a big department store carrying everything required to meet the needs of the community in a general store. Here was a stock of dry goods, shoes, furnishings, notions, groceries, queensware, etc. for the size and up-to-dateness would open the eyes of many city merchants. This firm served a large territory.

Mr. George Allgaier was a merchant of broad experience, having fifteen years' experience as clerk and partner, part of this time at Seward. Five or six employees take care of the wants of patrons.

Mr. Allgaier is president of the Town Board and a member of the Library Board.

Disasters

Talmage suffered two disastrous fires, the first in May, 1891, when every building on the north half of the east side of main street except the bank building burned and on August 22, 1894 when all the buildings on the south half of the east side of main street burned.

A disastrous flash flood visited the Little Nemaha Valley on Tuesday, May 9, 1950. The span across the old river bed and the one across the drainage ditch on highway 67 withstood the torrent and the bridge east of town took a terrific beating. Much damage was done to the Missouri-Pacific tracks and road bed. Many were forced to leave their homes and a number of lives were lost; although there were no fatalities here. A 40 foot approach was added to the west end of the bridge east of town to make it passable.

On june 2, 1951, another flood visited this section and the Tangemann Bridge was the only one left in this locality. The Bryan Bridge east of town collapsed and was lost. Extensive repair was necessary on the bridge north of town on Highway 67. Following the great loss experienced by the flood, another catastrophy visited our town on August 14, 1952, when a high wind which was judged to be 100 miles an hour and at times seemed to be a twister, devastated everything in its path. The town's electrical system was wrecked as well as the tele-

phone system. There was hardly a building in town that was not damaged. Because of the fine spirit of co-operation which exists among the people of Talmage and with the farmers in the vicinity, they all worked together to bring order out of chaos.

On August 17, 1954, the Missouri-Pacific Railroad officials sent a crew of men to tear down the bridge north of town, which never had been repaired since the floods of 1950-1951. The bridge is located west of the highway bridge and provides protection for that structure. The Chamber of Commerce offered the railroad $1,000 for the span, which they accepted.

Doctors

A doctor practiced in the community even before Talmage was incorporated. He was Dr. J. W. Conger. As soon as possible, he moved into town. An 1886 issue of the Talmage Tribune lists professional cards for George Allen, M.D., G. S. Howard, M.D., George Ewh, M.D., Dr. Conger and Dr. Shiriner. Also practicing in that bracket of time was Dr. Dowel.

Mr. Shiriner moved to Syracuse and Dr. Howard went to Exeter after many years. Dr. Allen passed away at his home in 1897. Dr. Ewh practiced here from 1887 until his death in 1922.

Other doctors practicing early in Talmage history were Dr. George Littlefield, Dr. S. S. Wilson, Dr. A. E. Jefferson and Dr. Akers.

DR. GEO. EWH.

Within the memory of many of our citizens were Dr. C. T. Gritzka who came here in 1905 and practiced over fifty years. Dr. T. L. Weekes, Dr. W. C. Kenner, Dr. A. J. Mullman, Dr. Williams and Dr. Martinson.

These doctors devoted many hours of practice in offices located wherever they found suitable rooms, and some had offices in their own homes.

In 1946, a group of businessmen and farmers purchased the former Farmer's State Bank Building and remodeled it into a suitable doctor's office. Dr. Blaine Carey and later Dr. J. R. Zastera practiced there.

After Dr. Gritzka retired, the community had no doctor for a number of years. Recently, the office building was again remodeled and modernized by the Chamber of Commerce. It is now occupied by doctors who are associated with Family Physicians of Nebraska City, and are available here two afternoons each week.

Dentists

The first dentist in Talmage is believed to have been Dr. Brosman. Among others that practiced here during the early years were Dr. Torrance, and Dr. Hill of Syracuse who opened office here twice a week.

More recent dentists were: Dr. A.C. Nelson, Dr. E.M. Winner, Dr. E. D. Flougher, Dr. F. C. Reese, Dr. T. C. Broz, Dr. A. T. O'Leary, Dr. L. B. Hebard and Dr. M.P. Sullivan, our last resident dentist.

Veterinarians

Dr. George Carr, Dr. J. N. Barber and Dr. Geick were among the veterinarians, who practiced in Talmage.

Dr. S. A. Smith was the last veterinarian to locate in Talmage. He served this community within a radius of twenty miles for many years before retiring. He was a veteran of World War I and was a graduate of Kansas State.

G.A.R.

The Roberts Post 104 of GAR of Brock-Talmage was chartered in 1882. Meetings were held at Brock, Talmage, Bob Town, Spring Creek and Charter Oak.

In 1884, the upper story of the Gregory Building in Talmage was purchased for a Post Home.

One of their projects was aid to poor and destitute veterans and their dependents. In 1894, a carload of coal for veterans in western Nebraska was purchased for $63.00.

One of the greater days of GAR was Memorial Day of 1914 when Governor Moorhead addressed the Post and members of the Talmage community.

PAST ORGANIZATIONS

Woman's Club

In 1900, the ladies of the town felt a cultural need so the Mental Culture Club came into existence on Oct. 11 and was federated in 1901. It was a study club and its purpose was to enlighten its members as well as to better the community.

The Woman's Club of Talmage was organized in 1925 and federated in October, the same year. There were 29 charter members and the first officers were president, Mrs. George Brehm, secretary, Miss Bernice Norton, treasurer, Mrs. C. L. Osborn and historian, Mrs. C. G. Ashton. The club motto is "The Higher We Climb the Broader Our View" which expressed the purpose of the club. The public library was the recipient of several books which the club purchased whenever funds are available. There is no longer a woman's club in Talmage.

Modern Woodmen and Royal Neighbors

Howe & Son

In July 1943, Lynn Howe moved from Nebraska City to Talmage to become the Utilities Superintendent. In 1945, when his son, Melvin, was home on leave from the Army, they agreed to go into partnership in the Electric, Heating and Plumbing business. Lynn was a cabinet maker, carpenter and plumber by trade. Mel was an electrician and had also served as an electrician during his stay in the Army.

They purchased their second building to enlarge the present facilities in 1949. The windstorm in August 1952 damaged their buildings considerably and had to be remodeled. In September 1964, the building was gutted by fire and rebuilt again.

They have sold, installed and serviced Hotpoint appliances, Lennox Heating and Air Conditioning and Goulds Pumps since they started in business. They also do residential and commercial wiring.

Like most small town businessmen, they have been with the Volunteer Fire Department over the years with Lynn serving as Fire Chief for many years.

Both Lynn and Mel have been taking care of the Talmage utilities for the past 30 years with the exception of approximately 7 years. These years were served by Ted Thompson, Merlin Neeman, and Robert Hespen. Lynn has now retired from business due to ill health but Melvin, Mrs. Lynn Howe and Mrs. Melvin Howe continue with the store and are assisted by Darrell Dierking.

Both these men have worked with many changes in the utilities since 1943. When they first took over the duties of commissioners, the street lights were lit with 60 and 100 watt lamps which were on time clocks and turned off at 11:00 p.m. each night. In 1949, the Town's Primary and Secondary lines were inadequate and were rebuilt and upgraded for future growth. In 1952, the windstorm did much damage leaving the town without electricity for several days. The lines were again rebuilt and updated.

In 1943, Talmage used only 50,000 kilowatts per month. It now runs over 100,000 kilowatts per month average.

The town's water system until 1952 still had a pressure tank in the basement of the town library, with pressure on the system being maintained by a "Stand-pipe" supplied by one well only. In 1952, the present water tower, a 50,000 gallon looped water main system, filter system, (pressurized) 10,000 gallon sediment reservoir, Micro-Chemical feeder, Chlorinator feeder and two more supply wells were added.

The Sanitary System has changed considerably too. Originally built with WPA help, the plant had only one pump and after treatment the waste water was run into an open ditch along the road to take care of itself. Later, a drain tile was installed which carried the water east of town to the old Nemaha River bed. This was done away with in 1968 when a final lift station pump was installed and piped back west from the plant to the Lateral E drainage ditch. In the meantime, the original pump has been replaced with two submersible pumps.

Badberg Garage

Carl Badberg operated a truck line from 1923 to 1938. After selling the trucking business, he re-decorated his buildings and opened a garage.

His son, Don, was discharged from the Army in 1953 and he entered the business as a partner.

Carl and Don bought the Norton Hardware Store in February, 1963 and completely remodeled and restocked it into a first class hardware store.

The store was sold in May of 1962 to Jim Walters and Ronald Niedermeyer and was called J & R Hardware.

Don Badberg is now the owner and operator of Badberg Garage. In September of 1975, he also purchased the Neeman Garage.

ATTORNEYS

Among the early day attorneys were Elden Taggart, Frances See, Herman Wendelyn, James Lewis, Corydon Rood and Dan Livingston.

Tom Shanahan opened an office in the early 50's and made Talmage his home until his death.

The citizens of Talmage were glad to welcome an attorney again when George Stanley moved here with his family in 1955. In the fall of 1956, he was elected County Judge and took his office in January 1957. On Feb. 1, 1957, the Osborn and Stanley Insurance Agency was formed. They also conducted a farm management and real estate service. Merlyn C. Osborn and George Stanley are members of the firms, Osborn becoming the sole owner in 1959. George Stanley is now District Judge of this area.

First Meat Market and Kreimer's Store

Frank and Charles Drum, brothers, were the proprietors of the first meat market. They were succeeded by George Uhlig, whose place of business burned down during the big fire of 1891. In 1894, August Heinke came here from Syracuse and opened a butcher shop in the building. Mr. Heinke assisted by his sons did his butchering at the slaughter house, north of town.

Other butchers of early days were Gus Klein, who came here from Auburn. Mr. Wisner, a native of Wisner, Nebr., John Peterson of Otoe, Frank Lessman, who arrived here from Austria in 1913. He was a partner for awhile, Mr. Peterson then did some farming.

Irvin Viox and Harl Mack in 1924. Walter Kreimer and Viox in 1926. Kreimer and Lessman in 1928. Mr. Lessman passed away in 1929 and Mr. Kreimer became sole owner. He had as a business partner, Sterling Gillen in 1939. Arnold Kreimer purchased Mr. Gillen's share in 1941 which established Kreimer Brothers Market. This also included a complete line of groceries. The Kreimer Brothers Market began business in 1941 with Walter and Arnold as proprietors. They saw a future in the locker business and built a plant containing 50 lockers, increasing as years went on.

In 1948, they added an up-to-date slaughtering plant adjoining their store. They gave complete service in butchering and curing, and preparing meat for the locker or home freezers. At state conventions, they have received prizes for both their cured bacon and hams.

Stanley Ritter became a third partner in 1954. In 1964, Walter Kreimer sold his interest to Roger Teten. In 1975, Arnold Kreimer sold his interest to Bob Kennison.

Glenn and Wilma Fritz worked for Kreimers from 1941 until they retired in January 1975.

Today, they slaughter at least 12 hogs and 12 beeves a week. Talmage is very fortunate in having this first class meat market. Their own cured meat and in connection a number one grocery department.

Cosmotologists

Miss Bernice Norton took the prescribed course and opened a beauty parlor in the home of her parents in 1924. Those were the days of marcelling and when the permanent wave came into vogue in 1933, she moved her shop downtown. She retired in 19 .

Mrs. Lottie Oelke came here in 1954 and opened "Lottie's Beauty Shop." She had previously lived in Nebraska City where she had been an operator in one shop for 30 years.

Judy Edmonds opened a beauty shop in Ted Damme's Building, May 1965 and moved her shop in May of 1966 to Busacker Building and ran it until Sept. of '67.

Operators that followed in the same building were Roxanne Oestmann Rose Bowen and Betty Panko.

Edward F. Bottcher bought the building north of the Diamond Restaurant in 1972 and remodeled and equipped a beauty shop and fixed the back of the building for living quarters. Faye Brown started operating this shop in August of 1972 and called it the "Talmage Beauty Salon." This shop has received an excellent rating from the state inspector for the last 3 years.

Barber Shops

An early day barber shop was located in the basement under the corner building of Kreimer Bros. Market and entrance was gained by an outside stairway. Cal Kirby who came from Virginia was the first barber.

Another early barber shop was in the building south of the mortuary. Some of you can remember when this shop kept private shaving mugs for their customers. This was done to prevent the barber's itch. This

shop supported 3 barbers for many years. When the safety razor came in, this almost ended the shaving business. Barbers who served the community and still are serving are: Lawrence Bord, Arthur King, E. G. (Pegsy) Van Winkle, Marvin Meyer, Harry Bordd, John Aust.

Oscar Vollertsen operated a barber shop for over 20 years. He moved to Lincoln in 1955. John Paulsen started barbering in this shop in 1956 leasing the equipment from Ben Kreimer.

Keith Edmonds started barbering for Pat Meyer who owned and operated a barber shop on the east side of main street. He purchased the barber shop in 1966 reselling it to Pat Meyer in 1973, and he is operating the shop today.

Peterson Oil

The year 1936, Ben Kreimer started the now called Peterson Oil. He bought and moved a building which was located 1/2 block west of the Farmers Elevator. It is what is now known as Talmage Hatchery Building. Ben had a garage and started selling Phillips 66 oil. This was done with a 1932 Model B pick-up. The pick-up had a 300 gallon drum in the back end. The fuel was bucketed off in 5 gallon buckets. Fifty gallons was an average sale.

In 1949 (April) Leonard Peterson purchased the 1935 oil truck from Ben, also storage tanks, having storage for 10,000 gallon of fuel. At that time, it became Peterson Oil. Leonard had worked for the Farmers Oil in Talmage in 1931. During the war, he moved to Nebraska City and worked at the bomber plant. After the war, he lived out at Steinhart Park. He was superintendent there until moving back to Talmage in 1949. After his death in 1955, Bryon (son) and Pershing Viox kept the business going. April 1975 was our 25th birthday. To show our appreciation to all of our customers, and the people of our community for the wonderful way we have been treated, we will present the Pathfinders from Fremont at our Bi-Centennial Celebration on Sunday, June 13.

Things have changed a great deal. The 50 gallon sale has gone, so has 7¢ kerosene.

Phillips Oil Company met our needs, but it is our customers and the friendly people of Talmage that have brought 25 years plus one to our being. For this, we say "Thanks".

Farmers Co-Op Oil Company

The Farmers Co-op Oil Company of Nebraska City built an attractive brick oil station in 1930. Russel Cole was the first manager and Leonard Peterson drove the tank truck. In 1951, they built an addition on the east which contained their grease rack and wash rack with a stock room in the rear to store oil.

The oil station was leased in April, 1951 by Ray Johnson. Don Landwehr ran the tank truck and William Grieswell was employed to help run the station. Later, Mr. Grieswell became manager and operated the station until 1958.

Clyde Stoll became the next operator and was here a little more than a year. Ray Johnson returned for three more months b efore Orville Burr became manager. Mr. Burr served from 1959 to 1962. Rudolph (Rudy) Meyer became the next operator of both the station and tank wagon. He retired on December 1, 1974. Since that time, the business has been managed by Craig Mannschreck. He is assisted by Don Gadeken.

Farmers Cooperative Co.

In 1914, The Farmers Union Co-operative Association was organized with many farmers in the vicinity as members. Board of directors consisted of C. G. Bischoff, Henry Peters, Carrol L. Osborn, E. G. Hubbard and Ed Wittler. A. L. Brannan was the first manager. In 1919, a new elevator was built of clay tile and had a capacity of 25,000 bushels. John D. Juilfs became manager in 1920 and in connection with the elevator opened a store where groceries and dry goods were sold. Cream and eggs also were bought. Other managers included William Cope, Elmer H. Moller and Mrs. Glen Fritz. Lester Beaman was a manager in the early 30's.

The Farmers Union Co-op Association hired William Brandorff of Nebraska City as manager in 1942. It was re-organized in 1946 and the name was changed to Farmers Union Co-operative Co. In 1955, a Behlen steel bin for the storage of grain was erected south of the elevator. The bin is 52 feet by 120 ft. and holds 120,000 bushels of grain which is moved to and from the elevator by means of an evaculator. Two new concrete bins slightly more than 76 feet high by 21 feet in diameter were completed.

A small drier was added about 1955 and a large continuous flow dryer in 1964.

A large Behlen grain storage building was completed in 1961, bringing the total capacity of the elevator to 628,000 bushels. The fertilizer building was built in 1973.

The name was changed to Farmers Cooperative Company in August of 1963.

Other managers since Brandorff have been: Ray Johnson, Lyle Johnson, Dick Pleis and Dale Horstmann. Mrs. Diane Pleis is the present manager.

Officers and directors are Norbert Grundman, president; Wayne Johnson, vice-president; Arnold Bischoff, secretary; Lynn Morris, treasurer; Dale Meyer, Reinhold Teten, Jr. and Floyd Beccard, directors.

THE CHURCHES

The Religious Background of the Talmage Community

The Christian religious endeavor in the Talmage community began in the early 1850's. Some of us will remember our grandfathers telling of the organizational meetings conducted by the leaders of their faith and soon several denominations, organized their own church.

During the last 125 years, we have experienced the goodness of God. We have passed through years of drought, depressions, dust storms, destructive wars, as well as years of peace. Through all of these years with all of the changes, heartaches and sorrows as well as joys the Lord has been with us.

The Churches Look Ahead

The people of different denominations are thrilled at the thought of their ranks becoming greater when they join hands with brethren of other faiths. We do not do so in order that we may be big and powerful in the eyes of the world, but in order that our attack on the assignments which we have may be more vigorous and our harvest more plentiful.

The people of the Talmage community are proud of their churches Their faith is as strong today as it ever was.

History of Faith Lutheran Church

Faith Lutheran Church is the youngest congregation in the Talmage community, but its beginning are among the oldest of church organizations in Nebraska. It is a merger of two congregations known formerly as St. Paul and Trinity Lutheran Churches.

In 1858, a number of German Lutheran families from Illinois settled in the fertile, rolling hill country east of Talmage. Visiting Lutheran pastors from Nemaha County and other areas served their spiritual needs until 1868 when under the guidance of Pastor Josias Ritter, St. Paul Lutheran congregation was organized two and one half miles northeast of Talmage. Pastor Ritter was a missionary-minded pastor having organized several congregations in Iowa and then also served as pastor in Illinois. He served St. Paul's until 1882 when he retired on a farm near Talmage. A number of his descendants are still among the leading citizens of the Talmage community.

St. Paul
Evangelical Lutheran Church

The St. Paul Church building was built in 1875, and it served as the congregation's only church building until it disbanded in 1972. St. Paul's celebrated its centennial in 1968 with special services. The following pastors served after Pastor Ritter: F. H. Duerschner, 1882-1909; J. Janssen, 1910-1913; A. Doering, 1914-1922; C. H. Eckoff, 1922-1923; Philip Schmidt, 1923-1927; W. Fleischmann, 1927-1945; Daniel Scholl, 1945-1961. In 1962, Rev. Robert Kreier came to St. Paul's from Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Ness City, Kansas.

The founding pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Pastor Ritter, had hoped and planned for years that a Lutheran congregation might also be organized in the village of Talmage for the Lutherans who lived in the village and west of Talmage. This was finally realized early in 1906 when Pastor F. H. Duerschner of St. Paul's Church together with ten charter members founded Trinity Lutheran Church in Talmage. On May 12, 1906, Trinity Lutheran Church in Talmage, dedicated its

church building. Pastor Duerschner and other visiting pastors served Trinity until 1908 when Pastor H. Stave moved to Talmage as the first resident pastor. The first parsonage was built in 1911. Pastor Stave served until 1925 when Pastor S. Haferman came and remained until 1948. Pastor Paul Kumpf served from 1949 until 1951 when he died while serving Trinity's pastorate. Pastor E. O. Baack, Jr., came in 1951 and served until 1959. Rev. E. W. Hilgeman served from 1959-1961. Rev. Robert Kreier came to Trinity in 1962.

When Pastor Kreier came to Talmage, he was the first pastor to serve both St. Paul and Trinity congregations on a full-time basis. During the next ten years, the two congregations worked together closely, combining many programs and organizations. On February 20, 1972, both St. Paul and Trinity congregations voted formally to disband, merge, and reorganize as a new congregation which was given the name "Faith Lutheran Church." The facilities of the former Trinity Church are now used by the new congregation. The St. Paul Cemetery continues to serve as the burial ground for most of the Lutheran people around Talmage.

Rev. Robert Kreier was called to be pastor of the new Faith Lutheran congregation. He served until January 1973 when he moved to Russell, Kansas. Pastor William Dressen was installed as pastor of Faith Lutheran on June 17, 1973.

A memorial has been constructed on the site of the former St. Paul Church. At the present time, Faith Lutheran is completing a new parsonage.

Zion United Church of Christ

The first worship services of Zion United Church were held in March of 1883. They were conducted by Rev. Theo. Tanner, the pastor of St. Paul's Evangelical Church (Osage), above the J. H. Damme Store with 20 charter members. Some of the members were people who belonged to the Osage Church but had moved to Talmage. The name ZION was selected because it means "sacred place".

The first church building and parsonage were purchased from the Methodist Church, South. On Christmas 1884, the first recorded communion service was held with 4 taking the sacrament. At Easter, in 1889, the first class was confirmed. There were 4 in the class.

In 1894, the congregation voted to become a member of the Evangelical Synod of North America at the next district conference.

Because of increasing membership, in 1898, a larger church was needed. In the fall of 1899, the present building was purchased. F.W. Kruger was the pastor at this time and there were 18 families in the congregation.

In 1902, the present parsonage was bought and many additions have been built on since.

On October 4, 1908, the 25th Anniversary of the congregation (dating from the first services) was celebrated in connection with the Annual Mission Fest. The Talmage Tribune reported that 700 attended the evening service which Rev. Duensing preached in English.

Until 1907, only grown men were permitted to sign the constitution and given voting rights in the congregational matters. In that year, widows and "grown-up" ladies were given the right to vote.

In December of 1912, the Young People's Society gained permission of the congregation to put electric lights in the church which was completed in 1913. The Aid had electric lights installed in the parsonage in 1914.

In 1918, the room on the south side of the church edifice was built and a new furnace was installed. On Palm Sunday, in 1918, a new organ was purchased by the Young Peoples Society.

On October 16, 1921, the Ladies Aid Society celebrated their 25th Anniversary in connection with the Mission Fest. The speaker was Rev. Munz.

In 1925, the congregation adopted the use of the individual communion cups and dropped the practice of the common cup.

On October 25, 1921, the basement which had been built under the church that year, was dedicated. A new furnace was also purchased that year by the congregation.

On August 26, 1934, the 50th anniversary of the congregation was celebrated. Two charter members were honored at the occasion: J. H. Damme and Wm. Eschmeyer.

On June 26, 1934, the Evangelical Synod merged with the Reformed Church. In May of 1957, the Midwest Synod composed of the former Nebr. Synod and Iowa Synod was formed. In June of that year, the merger of the Evangelical and Reformed Church with the Congregational Church was completed. In April of 1960, a constitutional updating and name revision was made. The congregation took its present name Zion United Church of Christ.

On August 16, 1959, the congregation celebrated its 75th Anniversary. Its present membership is approximately 150.

The History of St. John's United Church of Christ

According to church records and recollections of the older members, it was in the years 1860-1870 that a number of families came to McWilliams Precinct, Otoe County, Nebraska. They came from other states and countries to become pioneers of the State of Nebraska. The majority had been members of an Evangelical Church in their former homes. Not having an Evangelical Church within reasonable distance for walking or driving with a team of horses, they met in the homes on Sunday. They sang songs, read from the Bible or sermon books and then talked of plans for a more appropriate place where they might have their worship services.

On January 2, 1871, a business meeting was held. Those present were: J. Fredrick Pahde, Frank Doermann, H. Moritz Damme, John J. Eckhoff, and Henry Holtgrewe. They agreed to organize a church and adopted a constitution and by-laws. They adopted the name "Evangelical St. John's Congregation." For a meeting place, they made use as a dwelling located on a farm owned by Frank Doermann. The location was one mile east and one-fourth south of the present location of the church.

The building was used in part as living quarters for the Pastor, and the other parts for conducting church services and as a schoolroom. It was used for this purpose for fourteen years.

The constitution was adopted in 1871 and since has been revised several times. The first constitution was written entirely in German. Later, it was written in German and English and finally entirely in English.

On November 24, 1884, a deed was made by H. Moritz Damme and his wife, Minnie, to the church conveying the southwest ten acres of the southwest quarter of Section eleven, Township seven, Range twelve in Otoe County, Nebraska. The grantees were Herman H. Fischer and Henry Holtgrewe as the trustees of the "Evangelical St.

John's Congregation." By now, the congregation consisted of thirteen families.

A church building and parsonage were built during the years 1884-1885. The cemetery was platted and maintained by the congregation. In 1942, the "St. John's Cemetery Organization" was formed, and it was maintained separately from the church.

School was held in the basement of the parsonage for about thirteen years. During the years 1897-98, the school house was built. School and confirmation instruction were held there.

The church was rebuilt in 1917-18. The building was raised, the west wing was added, a basement was excavated under part of the building, a furnace was installed, the pipe organ was purchased and installed, art glass windows were purchased and installed and fixtures were bought and put in place. In 1921, the congregation celebrated their fiftieth anniversary. By now, we had grown extensively, thus making these improvement possible. This progress of the congregation took place under the guidance of Rev. C. Eller who served us faithfully for more than seventeen years. Rev. Eller passed away March 4, 1950.

In September 1927, the Rev. Henry Baumgaertel became our pastor.

In September 1929, the Rev. Max Strassburg took up the work as pastor of the congregation. He served for a period of fifteen years.

On September 24, 1944, a meeting of the congregation was held. It was voted that a (Parsonage) Building Fund be established. Later, definite plans for building a new parsonage were made and a committee was elected to solicit funds. Work on the new parsonage began in the closing months of 1944. A great deal of labor was contributed by the members and many difficulties were confronted and gradually overcome.

On February 1, 1946, Rev. A. L. Brueggemann became pastor of the congregation. During this time, many improvements were made to the grounds and a new garage was built.

During the years 1953-62, Rev. Lewis G. Marx served the congregation. The congregation observed the ninetieth anniversary on June 4, 1961.

Pastor Walter Koch came to serve the congregation in August, 1963. We installed new pulpit furniture in the fall of 1964. During this time, another major remodeling took place. A full basement was put under the church. The school house was taken down the following year. Pastor Koch resigned in 1968 to become a Navy Chaplain.

Rev. Carl Schmidt came to serve the congregation in November 1968. He observed the fortieth year of his ordination in June of 1970. He retired to Independence, Missouri in October, 1970.

Rev. Barry Stirbens is now serving as our Pastor.

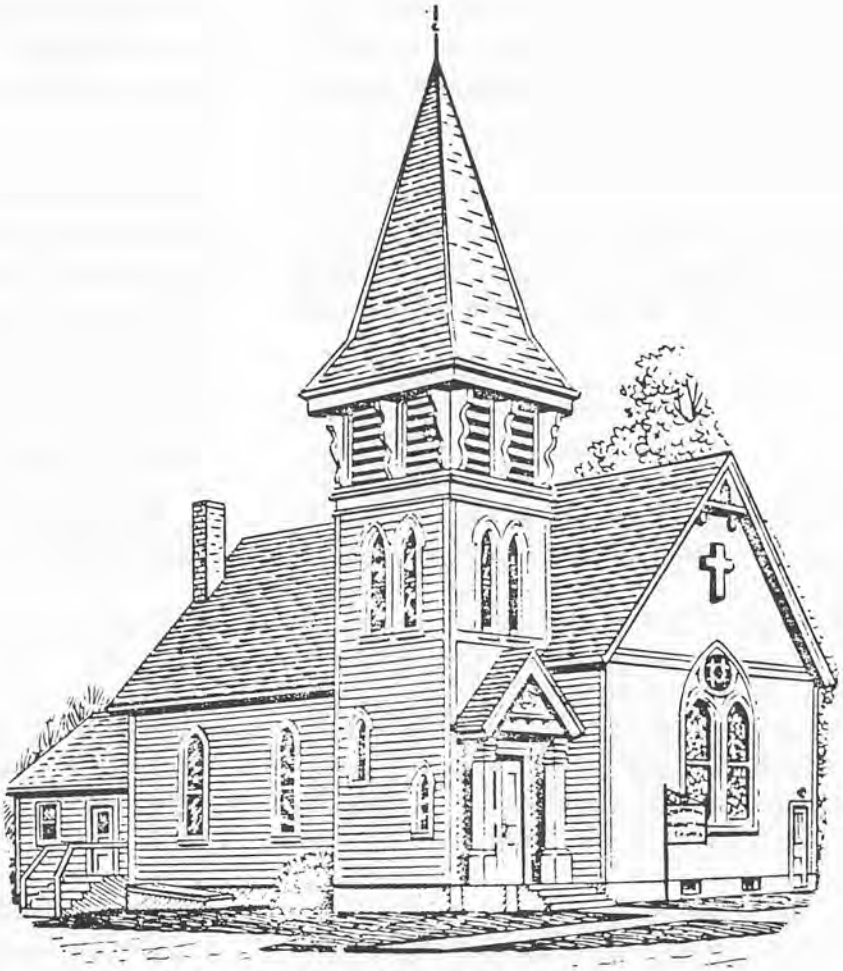
History of Charter Oak Christian Church

In the early days, many pioneers settled in the northwest corner of Nemaha County and became known as the Illinois settlement.

Although of different faiths, they met together for Bible study until March 23, 1868, when a group of 25, with the assistance of R. C. Barrows, an evangelist of the Nebraska Christian Missionary Society, organized their own church. They met for a time in the homes, later in the Grant School and in 1872 moved to the Charter Oak School which had just been completed. The congregation adopted the name of Charter Oak from the school.

In 1883, the Rev. and Mrs. J. E. Harris and family moved here from Ohio. In a short time, the Rev. Harris held a revival meeting in the school house. Many were baptized and received into the church. Shortly thereafter, he accepted a call to serve as pastor. During his pastorate, they decided to build a church and Mr. William Horrum, who had purchased a farm in Lafayette Precinct, Nemaha County, donated the ground in the southwest corner for a church edifice. He and his family were members of the Christian Church, and they lent their assistance an encouragement through the struggling early years of the church. The building was erected in 1884. The Rev. N. B. Alley, a fine speaker and skilled carpenter assisted in the construction and dedication of the church.

In the summer of 1902, the Charter Oak Church purchased the Baptist Building and organized a mission church. Trustees were Rev. J. E. Harris, A. R. Edwards, A. Everett, J. C. Puffer and J. W. Osterhaut.



Charter Oak Christian Church

The church had a fine membership for many years, but due to removals and deaths had to close. Much credit is due Mrs. Lyman Osborn and Mrs. W. S. Bryan for keeping the church in operation during this time. On February 4, 1926, the Charter Oak trustees: B. H. Osterhaut, C. L. Osborn and U. V. Scrimsher offered the building for sale and Simon Schaeffer purchased it to make a dwelling.

The 50th anniversary of the building of Charter Oak Church was observed Oct. 14, 1934 and the 75th anniversary of the organization of the church was observed Oct. 10, 1943 and it was also the 75th anniversary of the birth of the minister. The Rev. E. C. Davis who combined a resume of his ministerial life and a missionary sermon as the address for the day.

On Aug. 1949, disaster struck when fire of unknown origin enveloped the church in just a short time and was totally destroyed. The Talmage Fire Department responded immediately, but it could not be saved.

The next summer, the Methodist church people in Talmage decided to present their building to the Charter Oak congregation. The Rev. Simon B. Thomas, Supt. of Methodist churches and the Rev. Austin B. Hollingworth, State Secretary of the Christian Churches, completed the merger on Sept. 17, 1950.

Immediately, many improvements were made. The first being the construction of a full basement and equipment which was completed in 1952. In 1954-55, the baptistry and two classrooms were added. An electric organ and natural oak pews were purchased. Carpeting was laid and all walls were paneled. New song books were purchased in 1962.

The Loyal Class was organized a short time after the move to Talmage and has been of great assistance in all departments of the church. Other important organizations of the church are the Sunday School, Missionary Society, the Ladies Aid Society and several youth groups.

On April 6, 1968, the Charter Oak Christian Church observed its 100th Anniversary with a full day of activities. Services were held in the morning with these guests participating: Todd Hubbel of Omaha, Rev. Franklin Witter, Holten, Kansas; Rev. Ray Borgaard, Dr. R. Peterson, Dr. Norman Stacy and the local pastor, Rev. J. Bashore all of Lincoln.

An all church basket dinner was held at noon and recognition was given to seven persons who had been members 50 years or more.

Open house was held in the church fellowship room from 2 to 5 o'clock. A booklet containing the history of the church w as presented to each one present.

The Rev. Robert Milliken is the present pastor.

Lighting

The first lighting system was planned and built by E. J. Strangeman in 1905. Its source was an electric plant, operated by water power at the Tangeman Mill located several miles northwest of town. Talmage was the first village in this area to have electric lights.

When the Tangeman plant was found inefficient, an electric plant, powered by two gasoline engines, was built in town. It was housed in the concrete building at the north edge of the village. Lights were installed on Main Street in 1910, and poles and wire were added for residential customers by 1911. This system served the village until more electricity was needed.

In 1920, Talmage became a customer of Central Power Company, Nebraska City (later known as Nebraska City Utilities) about 1000 kilowatts were used per month. Lights still had to be turned on and off manually each evening and morning.

In 1950, the old lights were replaced with incandescent lamps, 750 candle power, throughout Main Street and at alley intersections. Lights came on automatically, activated by a photo electric cell.

By 1957, the use of electricity had increased to between 60,000 and 65,000 kilowatts per month.

The next major improvement in lighting was the installation of Mercury vapor lights. The project was complete after twenty-eight lights had been installed in residential areas in 1964.

Other improvements have included an equalizer installed to provide a more constant flow of electrical power through town. Heavier wire has replaced the old for better service, and less damage from storms.

Water

Water-use improvement in Talmage began with a need for fire-fighting rather than in interest in home or commercial use. In May, 1891, before Talmage had lived a decade, a disasterous fire burned all buildings in the north half of the east side of Main Street except the bank. Again, three years later, all buildings in the south half burned.

These disasters led to a special meeting called to discuss installation of a water system. Those present voted 79 to 22 for $5000 and again for $2400.

By 1896, a standpipe, one-hundred feet high and ten feet in diameter was erected near the present Library Building to supply water by gravity. Two wells were the source of water. Mains and public hydrants were laid on all principal streets. This system was as good as any in the state and served for fifty-seven years. The standpipe was then dismantled at a cost of $400 and the iron salvage.

In 1954, a new water tower with a capacity of 50,000 gallons was erected at the north edge of town at a cost of about $60,000. A treatment plant with aerator and filters was added, and seven blocks of new mains were laid for better circulation of the water. Two years later, eight-inch mains were laid from wells to plant replacing the old four-inch mains.

Within recent years, the system has acquired a new pump and motor. All twenty-eight hydrants and most of the badly eroded mains are new. Others have been cleaned. Three wells supply water to a very superior water distribution system.

Supervision and maintenance during the past 40 years has mostly been the hands of four men: Jim Porter, Lynn Howe, Ted Thompson and Melvin Howe.

Use of electricity has continued to climb as homes and businesses are consuming more. Early in 1976, the reading for one month was 140,000 kilowatts. However, August, 1975, peaked with a reading of 259,800 kilowatts.

Talmage has a reliable and well maintained electrical system.

Streets

In 1927, a very fine improvement was made in our town through the efforts of the village council. Because of the muddy condition of main street after every rain, the board decided to circulate a petition for the purpose of paving the main thoroughfare. Members of the board were A. H. Fahrenholtz, J. H. Damme, C. L. Osborn, J. D. Juilfs, B. R.

Zastera and Guy McGee. The required number of signatures was secured. The board held consultation with many paving firms and decided on concrete pavement. This project proved to be so satisfactory that the same procedure took place in 1929 and the street leading into town from the west was paved to main street, which comprises about seven blocks. Following this, all other streets in town were graveled.

Telephone Service

In 1897, the first telephone switchboard was i nstalled in the rear of the drug store. Mr. Gilman and his clerk took care of the calls. No regular operator was needed as subscribers could use the phone only through the day. There was no Sunday service or night calls. Later the equipment was moved to the building on the Fred Niedermeyer lot and improved service was rendered as one could call at any time. The dial system was installed in 1939.

A new telephone exchange building was built in May, 1964 on property purchased from Elmer Miller.

Post Office

The Post Office for this section was called Grant and was located on the John Milton Patrick farm, three and three-fourths miles southwest of Talmage. Mr. Patrick served as postmaster and also operated a dry goods and grocery store. When the town was established, the building which housed the Post Office and store was moved to Talmage and incidentally continued to do business while being moved, which consumed about a month. It is interesting to note that there has been only eleven postmasters since Grant Post Office was moved here, namely John R. Steele, April 27, 1882, Henry Bord, Jan. 25, 1886, Henry L. Reeve, Aug. 14, 1889, William Eschmeyer May 24, 1894, Hedekiah J. Wallace, May 19, 1898, August Dickenmann, Feb. 15, 1912, John D. Juilfs, Jan. 25, 1934, Iva Hansen acting 1942, J. A. Graf, Welton Juilfs who retired in 1972 and the present postmaster, Joyce Kinnison.

Rural Free Delivery Routes were established in 1898. Selover I. Conger was the first carrier on route one and William Edmondson on route two. Mr. Conger served for many years until he was retired.

Loren Fagan began as rural mail carrier in 1940 and retired in 1960. Norman Teten became rural mail carrier in 1960. Walter Kreimer is clerk. The postoffice was moved to its present location in 1963.

The Talmage Public Library

Talmage was only 12 years old when in 1900, the ladies of the town organized the Mental Culture Club on October 11th. The club was federated in 1901. In 1904, they brought the idea of a library before the village board. On June 13, 1904, an ordinance was drawn up before the village board for the purpose of organizing a public library in Talmage. This ordinance was signed by A. Everett, chairman pro-tem, and J. H. Mohrman, clerk.

The village board appointed the following to constitute the first library board: Messrs., Allgaier, Graber and Brademeyer: Mrs. Wood, Hoyt and Rood; Misses Maude Everett, Charlotte Holthaus and Lydia Engfer. Rev. Graber was elected president, Mrs. Rood, Vice President, Miss Engfer, Secretary, Mr. Brademeyer, Treasurer.

The club contributed 80 books to start the library. The first building was west of the Opera House (later the telephone office.) In 1906, the library was moved to the Allgaier Building across the street and in 1913 to its present site - a new brick building which also housed the City Hall, the Library and the northwest portion housed the Fire Department's hose carts. This has been remodeled and included in the library proper.

Board members acted as librarians for a time. On June 25, 1905, Elizabeth Edmondson was elected first paid librarian. Others who have served are: Kenneth Mohrman, Maude McNutt, Miss Cooper, Edith Brannan, Mrs. John Steinmetz, Mrs. W. H. Titzell, Sophie Moeller, Miss Geraldine Norton, Mrs. Herman Roos. Besides books and periodicals, the library has recordings which may be loaned out. Files and scrap books are placed in the library and talking machines, tapes and records, may be obtained for the visually impaired. Books are given every year by the Talmage American Legion Auxiliary in honor of Talmage boys who died in the service of their country. The library has been a member of the State Historical Society for many years. Open house was held at the library June 14, 1974, and the board is planning

to participate in the bicentennial celebrations in 1976. The present board: Mrs. Melvin Howe, President; Mrs. Stanley Ritter, Vice Pres.; Mr. Wm. Damme, Secy.' Mrs. Harold Busacker, Treasurer and Mrs. W. A. Juilfs.

The Community Building

The Community Building dates back to 1927. At that time, Mrs. C. T. Gritzka, a public spirited citizen, purchased a garage from John Ingran and built and operated a dance hall which was named "The Maryland." She completely rebuilt the inside, put down a maple floor. It was considered the finest dance floor in southeast Nebraska and still is. People come for miles to dance here. It was rated so well that it attracted many big name bands such as the Lawrence Welk Band.

In 1946, Stanley Ritter bought the building and regularly scheduled dances were held.

In 1948, Mr. William Damme acquired the building. It was rented for private parties and dances.

The Chamber of Commerce purchased the building in 1967. Many improvements were made including a new roof and restrooms. These were followed by new siding, a 20x60 foot addition on the north side, on the east end of this addition a complete modern kitchen was installed. This was all made possible by the thousands of dollars and man hours donated by the entire community. No two people contributed more hours than Carl Badberg and Harry Hauberg.

Bingo was started in 1969. Until last year, the food sold from the kitchen was donated by the women of the community as well as the kitchen help. Bingo is played every other Tuesday evening.

The building is available for dances, individuals, church groups, school related events, etc. A minimal fee is charged. This Community Building ranks as well as any and second to none found in any town this size. The people of this community are very proud of this building and rightfully so.

Officers for the Bicentennial Year have been elected and are as follows:

President:	Leta Horstmann
Vice President:	Viola Badberg
Secretary:	Marilyn Wittler
Treasurer:	Arlene Keilsmeyer
Sergeant at Arms	Della Asa
Historian:	Nelda and Carol Bischoff
Chaplain:	Irene Meyer
Publicity:	Leola Badberg

History of Zion Women's Fellowship

In the year of 1896, 13 ladies of this congregation assisted by Rev. Mung met and organized what is now Zion Women's Fellowship of the Zion United Church of Christ. Since that time with the help of 22 ministers, this organization has been an active group.

The purpose of this organization is to uplift the Christian life of its members, and of the members of the congregation to help with the finances of the church, and to serve any goupr or individual whenever possible.

The records prove that the organization has according to its ability, lived up to its worthy purpose. Substantial aid has been given the church congregation, parsonage repaired many times, trees, flowers and shrubs planted on the grounds, money donated to benevolent purposes such as Mission Work, Red Cross, Flood Relief, War Relief, Aid to Ministers and their families, sending food and clothing to various institutions, hospitals and homes. We also have our yearly Thank Offering boxes. Our latest project has been entertaining the residents at the Maple Grove Home near Tecumseh.

Money for these worthy causes was made by donations, dues, quilting, serving farm sales, banquets, suppers, lawn socials, plays, bazaars, etc.

The very first gift was a Bible purchased in 1897. Since that time, many useful gifts have been added including communion sets, collection plates, altar covers, church and school benches, tables, flags and candleabras. Two of the largest undertakings by the members was

making possible the placing of tin on the walls and ceiling of the church. In September 1931, along with some help from the Sunday School, the basement was completed.

In 1946, the Memorial Fund was started. To this fund, our Fellowship gives a cash gift instead of flowers for a deceased member.

Our Fellowship extends to other ladies of this congregation and community a hearty invitation to join us as a group of Christian Women who will strive to be considerate of every other person as a child of God, labor in harmony for the joyous building of God's Kingdom.

Extension Club

The Southeasterners Extension Club was organized February 21, 1972. We began with four members: Donna Fletcher, Shirley Dettmer, Lavonne Niedermeyer and Bobbie Neemann. The improvement of the park has been our major goal for the past years and was accomplished with a federal and state grant helping turn the park into the nice recreation area it is today. This was done in 1974. We have also planted a tree every year for Arbor Day and our project for the Bicentennial is to plant more trees. As of May, we have only 2 charter members left - Lavonne and Bobbie, but we do have 7 members now and 3 more who might join in the fall. We've really enjoyed our extension club and the work we've been able to accomplish together.

History of New Idea Extension Club--46 Years of Extension Work

On August 16, 1930, five ladies met at the home of Mrs. Harry Hopp, Talmage, and with the help of Home Extension Agent, Miss Hettis Bailey, organized our Extension Club. We decided on the name "The New Idea Club". Election of officers resulted as follows: President, Mrs. Harry Hopp; Vice-President, Mrs. William Nahkunst; Leaders, Alma Glassmeyer-Wellsandt and Lorene Meyer-Brown; Secretary, Mrs. G. C. Bischoff; News Reporter, Mrs. Elmer E. Meyer.

During the first years of our existence, the leaders were elected to take the lessons for one year. We met once a month with the hostess serving refreshments. Our lessons the first year were: Textile Fabrics; Comfortable Beds and Bedding; Table Linens; Italian Drawn Work; Quilts; Making Attractive and Inexpensive Curtains; and Dressing Up the Closet.

We have had an average of ten members and for several years, there were sixteen members.

For perhaps fifteen or sixteen years, we met all day--sewing, mending, tying comforters, sewing carpet rags, or embroidering for our hostess. A covered-dish dinner was served at noon.

We had all sorts of roads to travel, sometimes starting with cars, then team and wagon, or maybe walking to arrive at our meeting.

In 1955, we celebrated our club's silver anniversary by decorating a Model A Ford for the Purple and White Day Parade with things we had made in club work. We put a dress form on the back of the Ford (on which we had put an improvised head) wearing a bonnet and apron (club lessons). Rugs, quilts, a refinished chair, and what-nots were added to the display. Still celebrating in November, 1955, we prepared an exhibit for Achievement Day in Syracuse featuring one lesson for each of the twenty-five years of our club's existence.

In 1956, we sold the All-American Cookbook of Favorite Recipes of Famous People after adding some of our own recipes. With the profit from these sales, we purchased a book, The Woman You Want to Be by Marjorie Wilson, for the Talmage Public Library.

From 1959 to 1961, we sewed for St. Mary's Hospital. We made twenty adult gowns and thirty-six children's gowns and embroidered pillow cases.

We have helped the Arbor Training Center in Nebraska City and have entertained the residents in Syracuse and Tecumseh nursing homes.

For our own education and pleasure, we have taken numerous tours.

In September, 1967, Talmage celebrated the State Centennial. We entered a float entitled "Good Old Days of 1867--Today, 1967".

We celebrated our fortieth anniversary in 1970 with an evening's entertainment for past and present members. All contributed recipes for a cookbook which was sold later.

In November 1975, the club observed its forty-fifth anniversary which had occurred in August. Former members were invited for an evening of entertainment and reminiscing.

The following Home Extension Agents have provided our lessons: Hettie Bailey, Helen Holland, Mamie Daily, Marion Wilson-Harms, Margaret Slattery, Juanita Fehlhaufer, Maribelle Sall, Paula Strong-Disterhaupt, Connie Halsebus-Hartman, Helen Nicholas, Esther Chamberlain and Judy Ghorashy.

We now meet in the afternoons for our lessons and still help each other with new recipes and new ideas. Every spring and fall, we exchange flower slips, bulbs, seeds and plants. At Christmas time, we entertain our families with dinner and a gift exchange. Secret pals are revealed and new names are drawn.

We have a membership of fifteen:

Mrs. Clarence Cook
Mrs. Harvey Damme
Mrs. Robert Harney
Mrs. Donald Hopp
Mrs. Emma Hopp
Mrs. Elmer Meyer
Mrs. Leta Neemann
Mrs. Roy Peterson
Mrs. Norman Rohlfing
Mrs. Allen Schroeder
Mrs. Norman Teten
Mrs. Sterling Teten
Mrs. Elmer Wellsandt
Mrs. Fredrick Wellsandt
Mrs. Norman Wellsandt

Three ladies in the club are charter members. They are: Mrs. Harry Hopp, Mrs. Elmer Meyer and Mrs. Elmer Wellsandt.

Mrs. Elmer Meyer, Historian

Modern Woodmen and Royal Neighbors

After having been organized and disbanded, the Modern Woodmen of America was reorganized in 1894 and had a membership of 175. For many years, the camp had a drill team. They wore special suits for the drills and were expert in the work. Charles E. Wood served as secretary for 45 years.

The Royal Neighbors of America came into being a short time later and it too was a strong organization. Mrs. I. L. Viox was the secretary of this camp for several years. Neither camp has had regular meetings for a long time.

Knights of Pythias - Odd Fellows - Rebekah

The Knights of Pythias were reorganized in June, 1891, with a membership of 60. George Gilman was Chancellor Commander. They met for a few years then relinquished their chapter.

Talmage Lodge No. 217, Independent Order of the Odd Fellows was instituted Jan. 26, 1894 and the first officers were J. W. Osterhaut, Noble Grand, William Whalen, Vice-Grand, A. Everett, Secretary, J. H. Venter, Treasurer and Rev. M. De Motte, chaplain. Mr. Everett had been a member before he moved here and was instrumental in its organization.

On July 14, 1904, Good Will Rebekah Lodge No. 200, I.O.O.F. was instituted with Mrs. Jane Everett as Noble Grand, Mrs. Gertrude Bryan, Vice-Grand, Mrs. Mary J. Cooper, Secretary, Mrs. Mary Kerber, Treasurer and Mrs. Sophia Osterhaut, Chaplain. Both organizations were active for many years but they no longer have meetings.

Other Clubs and Associations

The Farmers Game Protection Club was organized Dec. 3, 1947 with Merlyn C. Osborn, president and J. Arthur Graf, secretary-treasurer. In February, 1948, they served a banquet featuring buffalo meat and there were 250 present. The money they had in their fund was turned over to the Chamber of Commerce for the improvement of Gritzka pond.

A group known as the Talmage Riders was formed in the summer of 1946 with eight girls and boys taking part in the quadrille. In 1947, the name was changed to the Talmage Saddle Club with an increase of four riders. A cowboy band was a special feature and was composed of Mrs. M. C. Osborn, the piano accordian, Leva and LaVern Berg, violins, M. C. Osborn, the banjo and Laurin Berg, the guitar. E.F. Bottcher was director of the group and Mrs. Bottcher did the calling. This group made many appearances including 4-H Club shows at Auburn, county fair at Syracuse and picnic at Talmage.

About 100 farmers were present when the Tri-County Road and Bridge Association was formed July 13, 1951. Conditions were in a critical

stage as we had no bridge across the Nemaha on the northeast and farmers were not obtaining rock for their roads which they should have had through the Shroeder Mail Road Act, and this brought about united action. Officers elected were: Edward F. Bottcher, president, Calvin H. Pearson, vice-president, Arthur Winkelhake, secretary and Theodore Damme, treasurer. Other board members were Wayne Johnson, Cook and Merlyn C. Osborn, Talmage. Much has been accomplished in the way of better roads and bridges through this association.

Chamber of Commerce

An organization which has been a leader in all community activities is the Chamber of Commerce which was formed Nov. 25, 1927. Ed Flake, Sr. was the first president, Dr. C. T. Gritzka, vice-president, Charles E. Wood, secretary and E. G. Spencer, treasurer. A board of directors to serve two years were Guy E. Jones, chairman, J. D. Juilfs, Dr. W. C. Kenner, Frank W. Norton and C. W. Parker. Outdoor picture shows in the summertime and treats for the children at Christmas were two of the projects which they sponsored.

The Chamber of Commerce was re-activated in the spring of 1960. Merlyn Osborn was elected president at this time. The Chamber has been very active in the succeeding years. They sponsored a drive which was supported by the whole community and succeeded in purchasing and remodeling a Community Building which is used by all in the area and also purchased the Medical Building and pursuaded doctors and a nurse to come to Talmage.

They also sponsor an Annual Pancake Supper, Easter Egg Hunt for the children, a Christmas Party and all farm celebrations including the two year Bicentennial celebration.

Present officers are: Rudolph Meyer, president; Mrs. Dean Frerichs, vice-president; Mrs. Stanley Ritter, secretary; and Mrs. Pershing Viox treasurer.

American Legion

First meeting of American Legion Post 246 was held April 21, 1920. Roll Call: Fred Stromer, Conrad Woerner, Frank W. Norton, George Fritz, John Milton, Ernest W. Palmquist, Frank W. Butz, Otto Shields,

John Bremer, W. W. Derman, James W. Conger, George Palmquist, Ben Schulte, Geo. Adams and A. A. Misegadis present.

Motioned to name Post 246 "Bryan-Holtgrewe" in honor of Riley Bryan and Carl Holtgrewe, who lost their lives in the war.

Minutes of May 1920, tell of plans for Decoration Day. Since then, a Memorial Day Service has been held by the American Legion. At that first Decoration Day program, A. A. Misegatis was chairman and Dr. Reese was to read "Lincoln-Gettysburg Address". January of 1922 minutes tell of firing squad and bugler preparing for funeral of Mr. Wallhams.

Memorial Day program of 1931 showed firing squad of Hohl, Birkman, Shields, Butz, Snyder, Geo. Fritz, Bohlken and Smith. Buglers Wise and Sherstad.

During the late 30's, a number of blue rock shoots were held to raise funds.

In 1941, Post #246 sponsored its first boy to Boys State. Two dollars was allowed him for expense money. Eldon Kreimer being the first boy to attend. Post 246 as of 1976 has sponsored a boy to Boys State every year for over two decades. Citizenship Medals are given to outstanding Senior boy and girl each year.

Through the years, the Post has sponsored Boys Club, Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, and every type of Legion baseball. Considerable time and money have been put into present ballfield, back stop and bleachers.

Legion Birthday parties are held with auxiliary each March where long time continuous memberships are honored.

The Firing Squad, known better as "F" Troup, takes part at military funerals, Memorial Day programs and Veterans Parades in the area.

American Legion Auxiliary-Bryan Holtgrewe Unit 246

"We, the mothers, wives, daughters and sisters of the soldiers, sailors and marines of the Veterans of the Union". This is the beginning of the preamble to the Constitution of the Woman's Relief Corps, Auxiliary to the Grand Army of the Republic, the modern day American Legion Auxiliary, Bryan-Holtgrewe Post Unit 246. The Relief Corps was organized in October, 1888 with thirty -four members. The present day Auxiliary was organized in June, 1922 at the Legion Hall with thirty-eight charter members. They were Allein Adams, Emma Bischoff, Esther Brehm, Augusta Bremer, Gertrude Bryan, Louise Butz, Pauline Butz, Hazel Conger, Ada Davidson, Clara Doerman, Anna Fritz, Elizabeth Fritz, Marie Hitch, Lena Holscher, Urith Holscher, Josephine Keen, Mabel Bremer, Josephine Brehm, Mildred Brehm, Bernice Norton, Geraldine Norton, Hannah Norton, Lila Norton, Mary Norton, Elsie Osborn, Alice Petersen, Nellie Reese, Mollie Reeves, Ida Ritter, Bertha Shield, Mabel Snyder, Evagene Smith, Elizabeth Viox, Emma Wendel, Ruth Whitman, Edith Whitman, Florence Sherstad and Mamie Reeves.

The Women's Relief Corps gradually united with the Legion Auxiliary. On June 2, 1926, the Auxiliary bought the furnishings of the Women's Relief Corps and the Corps was dissolved.

The meetings of the Auxiliary have been held in various member's homes, in the G.A.R. Hall and in the present Legion Hall.

The unit name of Bryan-Holtgrewe No. 246 came from Corporal Riley Bryan and Private Carl J. Holtgrewe. Corporal Bryan was the son of Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Bryan of Talmage. He entered the service at Tecumseh on June 26, 1917 and served at Camp Cody, New Mexico

in Company M 6th Nebraska. He was transferred to Company D, 109 Supply Train and later transferred to General Hospital at Fort Bayard, New Mexico, where he died from acute nephritis on January 10, 1918. Private Holtgrewe was the son of Mrs. Caroline Holtgrewe of Lorton. He entered the service at Nebraska Ctiy, September 20, 1917 and served at Camp Funston, Newport News and in France, 355 Company 89th Division Co. F. Carl was killed by German shrapnel at Chateau Thierry as he was advancing across the Marne. He was killed instantly when the shrapnel cut a gap in the back of his head. Carl was the first Otoe County boy to be killed in battle and was buried in France by his Corporal and comrades.

Each year, the Auxiliary and the Legion observe Veteran's Day with a supper to honor those who have served our country.

In the 1960's, an amendment was added to the American Legion Auxiliary By-Laws to include granddaughters of men and women who were in the Armed Forces as being eligible for membership in the Auxiliary.

Today, we have four Gold Star members. Our Gold Star members are the mothers, wives, sisters, daughters and granddaughters of service men who paid the supreme sacrifice while serving their country during the time of war. Each year, the Auxiliary honors the members with a tea.

Each May, the Auxiliary has Poppy Day wherein poppies are sold to everyone. Thd day is topped by a chicken supper sponsored by the Auxiliary as a money making project.

Monthly visits to the Veteran's Hospital in Lincoln are a common occurrence for some members of the Auxiliary. They help with the many phases of hospital care. The Auxiliary also has an office called Sunshine Lady. The holder of this office sends get well greetings to any Auxiliary member who is ill.

Auxiliary members decorate crosses each year for Memorial Day. These crosses are put by veteran's graves throughout the area.

A birthday party is held each year in March to celebrate the beginning of the Legion. A basket supper and a short program are the evening's entertainment.

The Auxiliary helps the Legion work on some of its projects along with donating to the boys baseball and girls softball programs.

Contributions to the town are also a part of the Auxiliary's program. We have donated to the Talmage Rescue Unit, to the Community Building, and at present are holding money making projects to raise money for a Memorial Park to be built to help celebrate the Bicentennial of America. The Auxiliary has also given many books to the Talmage Public Library in memory of the men who died while serving their country.

Throughout the years of the Auxiliary's history, many local members have held various county offices. Members also attend the district meetings and state conventions that are held yearly.

Besides the procedulal matters that take place at each mmeting, many things are discussed and worked on. Contributions are made to the Little Red Schoolhouse, a fund to help the nursing profession, to the coin jar which enables the unit to send a representative to Girls' State and to the Yanks Who Gave Fund which is given to the Veteran's Hospital in Lincoln to help defray expenses. Each Christmas, money is contributed by members and is sent to the Veteran's Hospital to be used by the hospital in their gift shop to enable hospitalized veterans to purchase gifts for their families. As one of the Auxiliary's money making projects, at each mmeting, many of the members sew on quilt blocks to be made into quilts which are raffled off to members of the Auxiliary.

"To participate in and contribute to the accomplishment of the aims and purposes of The American Legion and to consecrate and sanctify our association by our devotion to mutual helpfulness." This is part of our modern preamble to the Constitution and tells two of the many goals and purposes of our American Legion Auxiliary which we will continue to do throughout the years.

August C. Hansen

Mr. Hansen immigrated from Denmark and Mrs. Hansen (Frieda) from Hanover, Germany. Their first home was in Talmage and for a very short time in Lorton, then back to Talmage. This couple was blessed with 7 children, Walter, Mabel, Della, Edna, Carl, Arthur and Ralph.

In 1914, Mr. Hansen built a saloon on the east side of main street. In the door entrance floor, the name August C. Hansen, 1914, was placed in brass letters. Mr. Hansen operated this saloon in a successful manner until 1918 when prohibition was voted in May 1st. He then converted the saloon into a restaurant. Serving complete meals, short orders, home made pies, etc. Two long time employees of the business were Eva Meyer Milton and Sophis Stromer Rader. Mrs. Hansen baked all the pies for many years. His daughters helped make this operation a success. Groceries were later added to the business, a large bunch of bananas were always present in the windows. The restaurant was sold to Fred Stromer in 1933-34.

Butz Family

John Butz, with his wife, Pauline and children and his brother, A. C. Butz, arrived in Talmage in 1882 from Lee County, Iowa, and operated a wagon making shop and blacksmith shop which was located on Main Street. After a time, they sold out to Henry and Wm. Keck.

John Butz took up the carpenter trade which he followed the remainder of his life.

The children were Bertha (Mrs. Arend Renken), Emma (Mrs. Fred Ritter), A.C. and Ernest, and Frank all are deceased, the youngest, Frank, passed away June 8, 1975.

After they disposed of their shop, A.C. Butz, who had married Miss Louise Damme, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Fritz Damme, prominent farmers in Osage precinct, followed several lines of business at one time owning the creamery pond at the north side of town on which there was a large ice house. Every winter, it was filled with ice for all the residents of Talmage and surrounding territory.

At the time of his death, he owned the drug store, located at the north end of Main Street. Mrs. Butz continued to operate the store for a time and then sold it to I. B. Ross and George Webster, newcomers to Talmage.

Mrs. Butz was very active in the affairs of the Zion Evangelical Church, now the United Church of Christ, as she was a long time Sun-

day School teahcer, served as president of the Aid Society for many years, was active in the W.R.C., later the American Legion Auxiliary.

Children were Chrysie (Mrs. Wm. Titzell), Elsie (Mrs. Carrol Osborn), Sidona (Mrs. Victor Goerke), Dr. Fred T. and Victor, Mrs. Titzell and Victor are deceased.

Osborn Family

Lyman Osborn married Mr. & Mrs. Clark Puffer's only daughter, Annie Laurie Puffer, and he assisted in clearing the corn off the town site when it was decided to locate a town here.

Mr. & Mrs. Osborn moved to Talmage from their farm, 2 miles southwest of Talmage in 1907 and remained here the rest of their lives.

They were the parents of three sons, Fred, who died at the age of 8 of erysipelas, Lyman Jr., who died at age 16 of meningitis and Carrol, who attended the school in Talmage and after finishing, attended B oyles Business College in Omaha.

He married Elsie Butz and they es tablished their home on the Osborn farm. In 1921, they moved to Talmage and Mr. Osborn served for many years on the town board, the school board, and the Farmers Union Board of Directors.

Mr. & Mrs. Osborn took an active part in the affairs of the town as they felt every improvement made a better town.

The couple had two children, Merlyn C. and Joata (Mrs. Edward Bottcher.)

History of the George Brehm family

George, son of Wm. Brehm and Anna Yolter, was born near the inland town of Franklin, Sac County, Iowa, on January 10, 1870. He moved with his parents and 3 brothers and 4 sisters in 1875 to a farm southwest of Talmage.

He was married to Josephine Ernst on April 10, 1895, at the home of his parents. They had four children, Ralph, Harold, Esther and Mildred.

In 1900, Mr. & Mrs. Brehm moved from Osage Precinct to Talmage where for 30 years, Mr. Brehm was in the hardware and implement business. He retired in 1931. Both Mr. & Mrs. Brehm were active in many civic and club affairs.

Mr. Brehm served terms on the village board and the school board. He was an honorary member of the Volunteer Fire Department. He was a member of the men's choir conducted by Reverend Stave. He was also McWilliams Precinct assessor for many years.

He died January 9, 1949, the day before his 80th birthday.

Mrs. Brehm helped organize the library, served on the school board and served with the Red Cross during World War 1. She was the first president of the Talmage Woman's Club and first president of the Otoe County Woman's Club. In 1957, she was named Woman of the Year by the local club. She was state recorder of the Royal Neighbor Lodge and was also active in Eastern Star. She was Democratic Committee Woman for South McWilliams Precinct for over 30 years and was on the counting board for over 30 years. She died August 17, 1958, at the age of 87.

Both Mr. & Mrs. Brehm were members of the Zion Evangelical & Reformed Church.

NEWSPAPERS IN TALMAGE

One of the things necessary to the development of a new town was a newspaper.

The first issue of the Talmage Tribune made its appearance in March, 1882, with Clark Puffer as owner and Al Evan as editor. Mr. Puffer's son, J. C. Puffer, hauled the Washington Hand press from Nebraska City with a team and wagon. Through the years, there have been many editors and to Frank J. Schmidt goes the credit of installing the first linotype in 1925.

The Tribune was published weekly with only one interruption. From October 1st, 1942, until May 30, 1946, Desley Taylor, editor and owner, served in the Armed Forces and during that time, no paper was printed.

Mr. Taylor resumed printing upon his return and continued until May of 1960 when the last issue was printed.

Talmage did not remain long without a newspaper. In July of 1960, the Talmage Topics came into being. Started by Mrs. Merlyn Osborn and backed by the Chamber of Commerce and businessmen, the Topics was sent to everyone living in the trade area.

October 7, 1965, the Talmage Topics became a legal newspaper and Talmage was one of the smallest towns in Nebraska to have its own newspaper.

The Topics was sold to Maverick Media in August of 1974. Mrs. Osborn stayed on as editor.

RESTAURANTS & TAVERNS

In 1898, Herman H. Badberg came to town to engage in the restaurant business. After a time, he moved to his farm north of town and remained until 1913 when he returned and built one of the finest buildings in this part of the state. The interior finish was mission which was popular at that time. There was a balcony in the rear equipped with tables where patrons could be served. The floor was laid with one and one-fourth inch baked tile. He installed an attractive soda fountain.

Dave Ferry was a restuarateur here in the early 1900's and he too had an up-to-date establishment. Among others who were successful in this business were A. B. Yoder, Mr. and Mrs. Ed G. Van Winkle and Mrs. Herman Krogman.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Stevens came to Talmage and started a restaurant in 1949. They left in 1958.

The Diamond Lounge opened in 1975 in the building which formerly housed the drug store. It is owned by Mr. and Mrs. Fred Kastens of Nebraska City.

Mr. and Mrs. Con Lempka have operated Con and Lucy's Tavern for seventeen years and are still in business in the same location.

TALMAGE LUMBER YARDS

Peter Berlet, H. H. Childs, Clark Puffer, James Cummins, S. C. Gregory, William Becker, P. A. Flodin and Lee L. Horrum were the stockholders when the Nemaha Valley Lumber Co. was founded in 1891 and began business in July of that year. Their yards were located at the north end of Main Street. H. H. Childs was manager until his health failed and E. L. Yoder succeeded him. In 1912, the yard was sold to the Talmage Lumber Co.

The Talmage Lumber Co. was established in 1892 with yards 132 feet square, equipped with office, warerooms, shed, etc. B. F. Meyer was the first manager and later moved with his family to Oklahoma. This company also had a branch yard at Johnson which was managed by William H. Holtgrewe, who came to Talmage in 1902 to take charge here. Frank Norton began work in the lumber yard in 1910 and upon the death of Mr. Holtgrewe in 1923 was made manager which position he held until 1937 when he went into business with his father.

The Talmage Lumber Company became the Johnson Lumber Co. in September, 1939, when Charles W. Johnson of Topeka, Kans., and his son, Carl W. Johnson of Shubert, Nebr., bought the yard. F. J. Evans took charge as manager and became a partner in the firm in 1946. The business was sold in 1957 to Robert Pierce of Omaha who changed the name back to Talmage Lumber Co.

Pierce sold the yard to Walter Yurges in 1959. He, in turn, sold to Louie Haack of the Johnson Lumber Co. in 1967.

The yard was sold to Farmers Co-Operative Co. in 1969. It ceased to be a lumber yard and was used for storage purposes.

The Bourke Construction Co., Freemart, purchased the yard in 1975. The office was enlarged and a supply of hardware put in. It is again the lumberyard Talmage needed with crews available for all types of building.

Wellsandt Feed & Supply

This seed and feed store was opened in Aug., 1955, by Ray Johnson. He installed up-to-date machinery to clean all kinds of seeds, also, a

roller machine for cracking grain for feed was installed. His father Claude Johnson managed the business.

Kenneth Keller bought the business in 1961 and operated it until January, 1965, when Don Rottman became owner. Don improved the equipment. He got state certification as approved processors to clean seed for certified seed growers. The plant is inspected every year by the state to retain the certification.

The Wellsandts bought the business and started operation in April, 1970/ This is a very busy place in seed cleaning seasons. People come from afar to clean their seed. Their cleaning plant is considered one of the best in southeast Nebraska. They also are operating a first class feed business and also handle feed equipment.

Parks

The town purchased a piece of land a block east of main street in 1903 for a city park at a cost of $400. A band stand was built and screened, water was piped to the grounds, trees were set out, making it an ideal place for outdoor events.

The Annual Talmage Picnics were held there for a number of years.

In 1972, the Southeasterners Extension Club began improvement of the park as their major goal. It was accomplished in 1974 with a federal and state grant to make it a recreation area. A tree is planted every year for Arbor Day. Will plant more trees for 1976 Bicentennial.

June 14, 1975 at 3 P.M., the Talmage Park Dedication and Bicentennial Celebration was held. Talmage became a Bicentennial Community. A small parade from Community Center to the park was led by the American Legion Color Guard, Nemaha Valley School Band and grade school students. Mayor Ben Burns welcomed the people of Talmage and dignitaries including Sen. Calvin Carsten, Avoca, Everett Reimers, Nebr. City, Otoe Co. Bicentennial Chmn., Henry Cox, State Bicentennial Commission and John Hanlon represented Congressman Charles Thone.

Mayor Burns dedicated the new park which consists of a flag pole, tennis court, new picnic tables, outdoor fireplaces and rest rooms.

A flag which flew over the nation's capitol on June 3rd was given to Talmage by John Hanlon. The Bicentennial Flag and Plaque were presented to the city by Henry Cox, Lincoln, Nebr.

Small commemorative flags were given to all grade school children by Arnold Kreimer, Bicentennial Chrm. and Rudy Meyer, C.of C. Pres.

The children formed two circles around the flag pole and sang "Grand Old Flag". A barbecue served by the Chamber of Commerce members followed the program at the Community Center.

Fire Protection

An urgent need for fire protection surfaced during the disasterous fires of 1891 and 1894. In March 1896, the same year, the first water system was completed, THE FIRE COMPANY was organized. G. W. Gilman was the first chief and Henry Uhl was assostant chief. Fire fighters were divided into two groups, the east side and the west side.

Two hose carts, No. 1 and No. 2, pulled by the firemen, and seven hundred feet of hose was the equipment. A bell which summoned the firemen was mounted on a tower. This tower stood just east of the present Co-op Oil Station. One of the carts was housed beneath the tower and the other in a corner of City Hall after its construction. (This is the building in which our library is located.)

Changes took place. In 1910, the name of The Fire Company was changed to "Talmage Volunteer Firemen". In 1925, the bell was replaced by a two-bell siren at a cost of $375. The first truck was purchased in 1934. The building to house it was bought from C. F. Gordon for $50 plus $18.10 back taxes.

In February 1944, the second truck equipped with a resusitator, was acquired at a cost of $3558.56 which was covered entirely by contributions. Other equipment included a pump that could take water from hydrant, well-pump, cistern, stream, or pond, and a two-hundred gallon reserve tank.

A 1330 gallon tank, mounted on an International truck and equipped with a pump was of special use in fighting farm fires. This was added in January, 1957.

As need for replacements and better equipment arose, additions included a 1000 gallon tanker and pumper, a 3200 gallon tanker and a carry-all pickup. These three units were from Nebraska Forestry Department and were built by firemen.

In December 1975, the fire board purchased a 1975 L-750 Ford pumper powered by a 330 Ford engine. The 900 gallon tank, the ladders, hose, masks, and other necessary equipment makes this a very good truck. There is an efficient building that houses trucks and has space for firemen's meetings.

The department has seventeen members and all have had training. Don Badberg is the fire chief and Roger Teten is assistant chief.

Talmage Rescue Unit

The Talmage Rescue Unit was organized in 1966. One ambulance was in use.

The first ambulance is now replaced by two units, both owned by the organization, a 1968 Cadillac and a 1964 Cadillac. Both are fully equipped.

There are nine emergency telephones. One is on Main Street and the rest are in the homes of members.

The rescue team has nine members. All have had previous training and all are now enrolled in an E.M.T. training course which takes six months to complete. At its close, they will have attended eighty-one hours of classwork. Officers are Allen Bischoff, president and Ron Niedermeyer, secretary.

During the year 1975, the Rescue Unit responded to about seventy-two calls.

The community appreciates the security of knowing that in an emergency, trained help is only a telephone and a few minutes away at any time.

Banking

The Bank of Talmage began its history July 19, 1884, when incorporation papers were made out to James Sweet and Company and operated in the office of the Chicago Lumber Company. The first board of directors was Wm. Schacht, Washington Robb, Herman Arends, J.G. Evans, E.B. Hubbard, James Sweet and H.F. Cody. Peter Berlet, the successor of James Sweet and Company was elected President.

In the fall of 1885, James Sweet and Company disposed of their interest in this corporation and the name was changed to the Bank of Talmage. Theodore Frerichs was the cashier from the beginning. By the fall of 1885, it was successfully operating under a capital of $20,000.00 with a surplus of $4,000.00.

A substantial bank building was erected in 1886 and was replaced with the present structure in 1912. Theodore Frerichs served as cashier until April 8, 1928, the day of his death. Charles E. Wood became connected with the bank August 20, 1891 and served as bookkeeper, assistant cashier and cashier until October, 1945.

Cecil Asa came into the bank January 7, 1918 as bookkeeper, assistant cashier and cashier. He retired March 14, 1965. H. E. Renken was bookkeeper and left the bank in 1935 to take command of a CCC Camp. Lula Borchers, assistant cashier began in 1935, Joan Volkmer in 1948, and Margorie Birkmann in 1951. Wm. Damme came into the bank in 1966 as cashier. Today's staff is: Wm. Damme - Cashier, Margorie Birkmann - Assistant Cashier, Leola Badberg - Bookkeeper, Janice Neen - Bookkeeper and Alida Holtgrewe - Bookkeeper.

Farmers State Bank

The Farmers State Bank was organized and began business on October 1, 1912 with B. M. Marquard, Mr. Brickman, Adolph Ritter and E. G. Spencer as the directors. Mr. Spencer was cashier and Wm. A. J. Ritter assistant cashier. They continued in business until June 18, 1945 when, because of Mr. Spencer's health, the deposits and most of the assets were taken over by the Bank of Talmage. It was a voluntary liquidation, the deposits amounted to $350,000.00. Officers at this time were Carrol Osborn, President, B. M. Spencer, Vice-President, E. G. Spencer, Cashier and Ernest Frerichs.

SCHOOLS

A subscription school was held in the fall of 1881 in a building called Gregory Hall. The Misses Fannie Mothersead and Mattie Tibbets were the teachers. The school district was organized in 1882 and children attended school in the second story of a frame building known as Damme's Hall, located on the site of the present Damme store. In 1883, the first school house was built, which is the dwelling across the street south of Charter Oak Christian Church. There was not enough room to accomodate all the children so the primary room was again held in Damme's Hall. The school house which did duty for fifty years was erected in 1884 on the site of the present school. In 1887, the high school was founded with J. W. Jones as the first principal. There were ten grades and four teachers, which after a few years, was increased to five. Mrs. Cal Kirby was the first custodian of this school and she was succeeded by Nels Swanson, who served in that capacity for 20 years then retired because of illness. Succeeding ones have been Henry Bohlken, Frank Van Winkle, Herman and John Bremer.

The first high school graduation was held in 1896 in Cash's Opera House with Alice Everett (Cash) and Olive Spicknall members of the class.

In 1899 and 1900, pupils had the privilege of participating in the first athletic program as Mr. Nichol, teacher of the 7th and 8th grades gave instruction in exercises with Indian clubs and dumb bells. Two clubs were formed and they performed for the public. Both girls and boys wore suits of purple and white and no doubt these were selected as the school colors at this time.

In 1903, the eleventh grade was added so there were no graduation exercises held that spring. In the summer of 1908, extensive improvements were made on the school building which included a two-story brick addition on the west. The first floor was used for the primary room and the high school assembly was housed on the second floor. Because of congested conditions, more room was added in 1910. A tower was built on the north of the building, with an entrance hall below and domestic science and bell room above. The twelfth grade was added in 1915 which raised the standard of our school. Some of the nearby towns had only the eleven grades so pupils came here to take 12th grade work.

More teachers were added to the faculty. Pupils had the privilege to take music as an instructor was hired to teach it.

It was decided to have basketball in 1914-1915. Teams were organized for both boys and girls. Practicing took place on the school grounds until a building was rented on the east side of main street. Later, the Opera House was obtained which served for several years. In 1917, the erection of a new school building was agitated, voted on and did not carry. In the fall of 1927, high school boys were privileged to play football. The business men assisted in purchasing suits for the boys. Again, in 1933, patrons discussed the need of a new school building. The measure was brought to a vote Jan. 30, 1934 and carried. The new building was dedicated in 1935 and the entire community was proud of the facilities which were now available to our school children.

In 1939, the Chamber of Commerce purchased three acres of land from Carrol L. Osborn, which adjoined the school ground on the west and donated it to the school for a athletic field. Flood lights were installed and games were played at night. Talmage was the first town of its size in this vicinity to have an athletic field equipped with lights.

Vocational Agriculture and Vocational Homemaking were added to the curriculum in 1951. The agriculture class was held in the Farmer's Union Building until a building was erected west of the school house. It is fully equipped for the course. The homemaking class was held in the school kitchen. Another stove, refrigerator and more cupboards were installed to meet the requirements.

Due to declining enrollment, Talmage and Cook High Schools merged forming the Nemaha Valley Schools in 1967.

Kindergarten through fifth grades were held in both towns. The sixth, seventh and eighth were in Talmage and the high school in Cook. Charles Finley was the superintendent at the time of the merger. The present setup is the kindergarten in both schools, grades through six are at Talmage and the seventh through twelfth are at Cook.

ALUMNI SOCIETY

A group of graduates of the Talmage High School met on May 15, 1911 to organize the Alumni Society. Officers were: A. A. Misegadis, president, Sidona Butz (Goerke), secretary and Myrtle Holthaus, (Tangemann), treasurer. They also drew up the constitution and by-laws. Receptions for the new members were varied, for several years banquets were served. As the society grew in number, it was difficult to secure an organization to serve the banquets so they have decided on a basket dinner. No matter how many attend, they can be taken care of. A program and initiation is always a part of the evening's entertainment. On June 7, 1926, a motion was made and carried that the society set aside one-half of all money remaining each year for a sinking fund. When the new school house was completed, the society was happy to purchase drapes and curtain back drops for the stage in the auditorium, which cost more than $300.00. When the old school building was razed, the bell was salvaged. A committee was appointed to install the bell on a foundation on the school ground so it could be used as a victory bell. Edward F. Bottcher, Walter H. Kreimer and Mrs. C. L. Osborn were on the committee. Mr. Bottcher secured the rocks (native) and constructed the base which has a base about five feet square and is six feet high. Mr. Kreimer had the bell mounted. A report as to the installation was given at the alumni reception in 1952.

A small publication called "The Alumnus" made its appearance in 1923 which printed news of local members and those who were away; also a brief account of the current year's graduating class. The first editorial staff was Henry Damme, Esther Brehm (Renken) and Sophia Moller. It suspended publication in 1939.

PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATION

In November, 1923, Superintendent E. A. Markwalder invited the faculty and patrons of the school for the purpose of organizing a Parent-Teacher Association. The object was to bring into closer relationship the home and school.

The following officers were elected: president, Mrs. H. J. Hirsch; vice president, Mrs. Edward Flake, Sr.; secretary, Mrs. Frank Van Winkle; treasurer, Mrs. Beers.

During the mid 1960's, the Parent-Teachers Association withdrew its relationship from the state and national organization. It was renamed the School-Community Club (S.C.C.). The purpose of this group is also for better communication between parents and teachers, and to assist the school in any way it can. Every one in the community is encouraged to attend. Meetings are held three or four times a year. Mrs. Richard Hauberg is the president.

BANDS

In 1890, the first band was organized to be known as the Talmage Cornet Band. Members were John Meinhardt, W. S. Bryan, W. S. Newkirk, Carl Logeman, August Ruckstachell, Fred Sellhorn, Frank Biggs, Emil Sellhorn, Lawrence Bord, Henry Uhl, Martin Neinhardt, and William Hodge. Their uniforms were navy blue with gold braid decorations and the regulation small cap with square cornered bills. It is now known when they disbanded.

Through the years, Talmage has had several bands and in 1927, one was formed with Conrad E. Sherstad as leader. Concerts were given on main street every week. In 1935, the group disbanded.

A band was organized in 1947 through the efforts of mothers in town and vicinity whose children were interested in the project. I. E. Westfall of Nebraska City was the instructor and continued in the work for six years. There were about 70 young people in the group. The mothers sponsored all sorts of money raising events to buy uniforms. They made more than $1,100 which outfitted all the members. In 1952, the group became a school band.

INSURANCE

Arthur Winkelhake began selling insurance in 1930 and had his office in his home. In 1947, his brother, Alvin, became a partner forming the Winkelhake Insurance Agency and set up an office downtown. They sold all lines of insurance and gave complete service. This partnership was destined to last but a short time as Arthur passed away, and Alvin carried on a few more years until his health failed and he had to dissolve the business.

SCHACHT INSURANCE AGENCY

John Schacht lived on a farm northwest of Talmage. He sold insurance of all kinds for many years and was very successful. He placed many policies in the Cook and Talmage vicinities.

BIERE INSURANCE AGENCY

After the death of John Schacht, his son-in-law, Elmer Biere, took over the insurance business in 1960 and had his office on the farm. In 1964, Elmer and his wife, Rosalin, moved to Talmage where they became employed by Casey-Witzenburg Mortuary as receptionists. They also established their insurance office in the mortuary and are carrying on a successful insurance business.

MORTUARY

In 1955, Roy Casey and his sons, Allan and Lee, established a mortuary in Talmage. In 1962, Allen and Lee R. Casey purchased the full ownership. In 1971, Glenn Witzenburg purchased a third interest in the business and the mortuary now carries the name Casey-Witzenburg Mortuary. In 1974, the firm completely remodeled the mortuary and today, Talmage is proud to boast such a fine mortuary.

LAUNDERMAT

In 1960, Merlyn Osborn and Walter Kreimer installed a laundermat in Talmage consisting of nine new washers, three dryers and a water softener which made it a complete modern laundermat. In 1965, Merlyn and Walt sold it to Roy Peterson. Roy has replaced all the washers and today, Talmage can boast of having a first class laundermat.

FLAKE'S BLACKSMITH & GARAGE

In the early nineteen hundreds, Ed Flake came to Talmage as a blacksmith and a good one he was. He was a blacksmith when horse shoeing and sharpening plow lays was a big business. The plow lays he sharpened won many honors at the state blacksmith conventions. Ed and his employee (Art Hitch) sharpened thousands of plow lays every year. When the automobile came into being, Ed opened a garage where he had the Ford Agency and sold many Model T's in this community. He sold his business in 1938 to Carl Badberg and moved to Nebraska City.

COMMITTEE

Great care has been taken in the compilation of this book and every opportunity possible given to those represented to insure correctness. Those represented on the last page was information given the committee but failed to get in the book for one reason or another. For this reason, the committee felt obligated to add this supplementary page.

The names of many will be missed in this book. Not having a proper conception of the book, some refused to give the information necessary while others were indifferent. In a few instances, even though repeated calls were made, the necessary information did not come forth so for this reason, the committee is not to blame.